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ABSTRACT

This document features an annotated bibliography of social studies materials from a variety of media and prepared by the Department of Public Instruction of North Carolina. Materials listed include books, books in a series, reference books, filmstrips (sound), and video cassettes. (DB)

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# Advisory List of Instructional Media

## SOCIAL STUDIES

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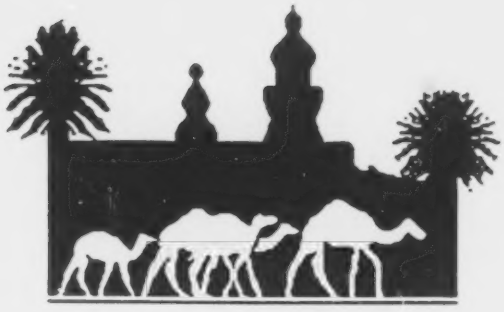

Media Evaluation Services
Department of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603-1712
February 1991

# Advisory List of Instructional Media

# SOCIAL STUDIES

To facilitate the use of materials on this list, the COMPETENCY-BASED CURRICULUM has been used to identify competency goals (CG) to which these materials relate most closely. The grade range at the end of each bibliographic entry (e.g., 5-8) indicates the span of grades for which the materials hold general interest. Following that grade range are specific grades and competency goals to which the materials relate most directly (e.g., Grade 5: CG 1). This information does not imply that the use of the materials is limited to the specific grades and competency goals cited. Instead, the materials may be used for enrichment, leisure, and other purposes by as many students in as many grades as feasible. Such use will ensure that students performing above and below their grade placement have access to a wide variety of materials to meet their personal needs and interests.

All titles on this bibliography are currently available for purchase. Prices shown are those quoted by publishers and producers but do not include postage and are subject to change.

PLEASE DO NOT ORDER ITEMS ON THIS LIST FROM MEDIA EVALUATION SERVICES. Publishers and producers are listed at the end of this bibliography. An abbreviated or code name for the publisher or producer appearing in the bibliographic entry on this list appears in the DIRECTORY where the complete address follows the code name.

## BOOKS

Aaseng, Nathan. CLOSE CALLS: FROM THE BRINK OF RUIN TO BUSINESS SUCCESS. (Inside Business Series) 80 p. $10.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-0682-3) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 12, 13, and 23

This book shows young readers that many famous businesses familiar to them by name--Du Pont, Woolworth, Heinz, Hallmark Cards, among others--suffered crushing early setbacks that would have vanquished most such ventures had it not been for the persistent, visionary stubbornness of men like Irenee Du

Pont, Frank Winfield Woolworth, Harry Heinz, and Joyce Hall. Chapter by chapter, the book focuses on great American commercial failures which rose out of their own ashes to become more successful than ever imagined. Frank Woolworth's ineptitude for clerking, Joyce Hall's loss of both his warehouse and all its (valentine) card shipment to fire, and Harry Heinz's bankruptcy as a result, ironically, of the bumper 1874 cabbage and cucumber crop make for fascinating profiles of American spunk and ingenuity. Other ruins-to-riches stories are Dow Chemical, Folger's Coffee, and 3M, to name a few included here. Black-and-white vintage photographs illustrate. This book reminds youthful audiences of the pluck and fortitude essential to commercial success and, encouragingly for educators, the principled, ethical conduct of the companies that finally recouped their losses and made fortunes.

Abodaher, David J. YOUTH IN THE MIDDLE EAST: VOICES OF DESPAIR. 111 p. $12.40. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10961-5) Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 4, 6, 9, 15, and 23. Grade 10: CG 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 10

Timely and thought-provoking, Abodaher's book combines personal experiences, historical background, and descriptive anecdotes to portray the effects of religious and political strife on young people living in Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel. The author's interest in this area stems from having parents who were born in Lebanon, and his easy-to-read prose documents visits with families there before and after the civil war in 1975 as well as trips to Egypt and Israel. His conversations with young people and his observations on the ravages of war in the Middle East are insightful and heartbreaking. Black-and-white photographs underscore Abodaher's assessment that youth are the real victims of these conflicts, and he works hard to present a balanced, objective report by including interviews with Christian and Moslem, Israeli and Palestinian. A helpful map, bibliography, and index are included to supplement the text. In light of current United States involvement in the Middle East, this excellent resource could definitely enhance class discussion and student reports.

Ancona, George. RIVERKEEPER. unp. $13.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-700911-4) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 4, 9, 12, and 18. Grade 3: CG 6, 9, 13, and 19. Grade 5: CG 5, 7, 8, and 11

Writer/photographer George Ancona profiles an unsung hero of our time, environmentalist John Cronin. The term "riverkeeper" originated in England, where these wardens of private streams kept waters well stocked with fish, maintained a balance between plant and wildlife, and caught poachers. As a modern version, Cronin patrols the Hudson River for the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, a private organization formed twenty years ago to clean up the river. In addition to firsthand observation of polluters and to monitoring toxic levels along the river, Cronin relies on a telephone network of residents and employees on the waterway for reports of oil spills, suspicious odors and smells, and chemical dumping. Such evidence is then used to inform the media and the public, to bring polluters to court, and to lobby lawmakers for statutes to protect the river from further destruction. Through tours for visitors to the river's marshlands and clean-up days with area schoolchildren, Cronin emphasizes that everyone should be a keeper of the environment. Picturesque black and white photographs illustrate the text, which could be read aloud to younger grades and used as a resource for reports by older children.

Anderson, Joan. PIONEER SETTLERS OF NEW FRANCE. unp. $15.95. Lodestar Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-67291-5) Grades 3-6. Grade 3: CG 12-15 and 18-22. Grade 5: CG 18 and 22

Aided by George Ancona's copious and complementary photographs, this text imagines life in "New France" (Nova Scotia) in the summer of 1744 as teenagers, Jean and Pierre, cope with anxieties indirectly but seriously affecting their lives and welfare during King George's War between England and France. Set in Louisbourg, a French harbor settlement, the narrative centers on problems facing settlers who depend for food and other crucial supplies on ships delayed by wartime activities. In a text enlivened by fictionalized dialogue and black-and-white photography of costumed actors, the story narrates/pictures 18th-century life in a pioneer community. The book's evocative illustrations (black and white suits the period) and intimate glimpses into early French-Canadian culture through the daily life of two youths provide supplementary material for American studies--in the broadest sense.

Arias, Ron. FIVE AGAINST THE SEA: A TRUE STORY OF COURAGE AND SURVIVAL. 226 p. $18.95. NAL Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-453-00703-1) (Available from Penguin) Grades 10-12. Grade 10: CG 1 and 5

Written in the descriptive, narrative style of fiction, Five Against the Sea is the riveting chronicle of a world record no one would want to hold: the longest recorded period anyone has survived adrift in the open sea. Five Costa Rican fishermen unwittingly become the main characters in an incredible story of courage and cooperation that begins when their fishing boat, the Cairo III, becomes disabled during el norte, the dreaded north wind. Chapters alternate between detailing their five-month ordeal at sea and describing the efforts of their families ashore, who are frustrated both by the government's disinterest and their own fears concerning the men's fate. Arias weaves interviews with the fishermen, families, and others into his account of the 4,500-mile journey. A section of black-and-white photographs includes pictures from a television program which re-created the story and those taken by a crewman during the actual rescue by a Japanese tuna-fishing boat. This book contains much contemporary material for units on world culture and world geography. Students could discuss the importance of religion and government in society using the five men as a microcosm and could create maps and time lines of the voyage. Interdisciplinary use would add meteorological study; literary works, like Hatchet, Lord of the Flies, and The Old Man and the Sea; and numerous mathematical calculations of statistical data such an experience might generate. Although fascinating to read and rich in creative possibilities for curriculum supplementation, this book may not be appropriate for all libraries because of the rare but occasional use of adult language by the crewmen.

Ashabranner, Brent. BORN TO THE LAND: AN AMERICAN PORTRAIT. 134 p. $14.95. Putnam, 1989. (ISBN 0-399-21716-9) Grades 5-12. Grade 5: CG 23. Grade 11: CG 11, 12, 17, and 18

In photo-documentary style, the saga of southwestern New Mexico farmers and ranchers emerges in the voices of old and young, many of whom faced the Dust Bowl and hard times of the 1930s and now face the anxiety of bank foreclosures; of outrageous energy, interest, and equipment costs; and of backbreaking competition from foreign markets. Both text and photographs bring to life the struggles, rewards, and failures all too familiar to those

who love the land and are committed to farming and ranching as a way of life. Families are introduced, interviewed, quoted, and presented in the context of their daily routines, giving a sense of intimacy and immediacy which invigorates the narrative. Paul Conklin's black-and-white photographs illustrate the people and their land. Accounts of high school activities, spring festivals, and daily family activities add to the perception of small-town and close family values as a vibrant, strong core in a way of life that should be supported throughout rural America. A bibliography and index aid research. This book is a loving, attractive portrait of a quintessentially American enterprise facing the serious peril of demise.

Ashabranner, Brent. A GRATEFUL NATION: THE STORY OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. 117 p. $15.95. Putnam, 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22188-3) Grades 4-8

In descriptive text and plentiful black-and-white photographs by daughter Jennifer Ashabranner, Brent Ashabranner summarizes the history of Arlington National Cemetery, identifying and discussing sections of the burial ground and significant services conducted over the years at this national shrine for American heroes. Ashabranner provides a comprehensive account of Union General Montgomery Meigs's rather vindictive selection of the land surrounding Robert E. Lee's home, Arlington House, even down to Mrs. Lee's rose garden, for burial of Union dead, thus inaugurating the area as a shrine which eventually included Confederate dead and, in time, many veterans and fallen leaders honored by "a grateful nation." Detailed chapters on the selection and burial of the Unknown Soldier and the service for and burial of President Kennedy will interest students, as well as the duties and rituals of military personnel who guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and care for the horses and caissons employed in burial ceremonies. An information guide for visitors to Arlington, a bibliography, and an index complete this respectful but entirely warm and anecdotal survey of a national shrine.

Baer, Edith. THIS IS THE WAY WE GO TO SCHOOL: A BOOK ABOUT CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD. unp. $13.95. Scholastic Inc., 1990. (ISBN 0-590-43161-7) Grades K-2. Grade K: CG 9. Grade 1: CG 7, 9, and 15. Grade 2: CG 5, 18, and 19

Although the subject of this delightful book is modes of transportation, young readers and listeners learn so much more about children like themselves from around the world and how they, too, get to school each morning. The flow of Edith Baer's lyrical text of rhyming couplets is complemented by the activity in Steve Bjorkman's watercolor-wash illustrations. For example, the lines "Akinyi leaves for school by train, / far across the mountain chain" are accompanied by the picture of a child racing to catch the train connected to a waiting, modern red engine. Concluding materials for map and globe study are the "This is where we live" page, which lists the names of the children pictured in the book and the countries in which they live, along with a world map, which uses circled numbers to locate the children and corresponding footnotes with their names. Thus, children learn that Akinyi lives in Kenya, which is circled number 14 on the world map. Fun as well as educational, this title is a terrific resource for discussions about similarities and differences among children from many cultures. (NOTE: Although the dust jacket states that the book is "Reinforced for Library Use," the sewn pages are poorly incorporated into the binding.)

Banfield, Susan. THE RIGHTS OF MAN, THE REIGN OF TERROR: THE STORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. 213 p. $14.89. Lippincott, 1989. (ISBN 0-397-32354-9) Grades 10-12. Grade 10: CG 2-5, 7, 8, and 9

Written in descriptive prose rich in detail, Banfield's book reads more like a novel than the well-researched text that it is. Most appropriate for advanced students, it recounts the political, social, and economic turmoil of the French Revolution. Beginning with a comparison between lifestyles of Louis XVI and his subjects, the content traces historical events and characters from 1788 to 1799. Blended into the narrative are profiles of important personalities, like Jean-Paul Marat and Madame Roland, and "Scene Setters," which are passages that chronicle such topics as the guillotine and revolutionary fashion. These descriptive asides are noted in the table of contents, which also locates specific diagrams, charts, and maps. Black-and-white reproductions of etchings, paintings, and engravings illustrate the text. Especially helpful are the extensive index and a list of materials for further study, which includes biographies, primary resources, films, and fiction, as well as works of general reference. A drawback is chronologies at the beginning of each chapter rather than a complete time line in one place. However, there is much material here to supplement in-depth study and student reports.

Barrett, Norman. DESERTS. (Picture Library Series) 32 p. $10.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10832-5) Grades 4-6. Grade 5: CG 2 and 11. Grade 6: CG 2, 11, and 13

In bright, clear photographs and a fact-filled text, this introduction to deserts of the world looks at kinds of deserts, desert peoples, desert animals and plants, resources under the desert (e.g., oil, gold, copper, precious stones), and ecological problems associated with deserts. Appended to the colorful content is an illustrated history of how deserts form and the types created by various formation processes. A "facts and records" section and a glossary conclude this simple, often stunningly photographed survey. This title is a natural for elementary students looking for independent study topics and research material in geography.

Berger, Gilda. VIOLENCE AND DRUGS. 112 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10818-X) Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 17

_____. VIOLENCE AND SPORTS. 128 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10907-0) Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 17

Two hard-hitting and well-organized volumes trace the impact of violence on all who are involved in the drug trade, legally and illegally, and the worldwide, growing problem of violence in sports. In VIOLENCE AND DRUGS Berger details the far-reaching toll of drug-related violence on our society, from the individual user to drug dealers and traffickers, up through the repercussions for law enforcement officials and policy makers. Crack gangs, drive-by murders, juvenile prostitution, "buy-and-bust" operations, user profiles, and vigilantism are among issues discussed in this timely assessment. VIOLENCE AND SPORTS reviews the history of desirable behavior versus misconduct in a look at the roles of players, coaches, and fans and then focuses on numerous instances of ugly and dangerous behavior in auto racing, baseball, basketball, boxing and wrestling, football, ice hockey, motorcycling, horse racing, soccer, and rugby--very comprehensive coverage. Graphic descriptions of the violence erupting after the 1984 World Series and the universally recognized brutality of British "soccer hooligans" are two

illustrations among many. There are no photographs or charts. A good reading list, an index, and thorough documentation in a chapter-by-chapter listing of source notes allow students to retrieve specific information easily. These books are good supplementary reading for sociology and physical education programs. They offer strong high-interest/low-vocabulary appeal for weak readers as well as solid information, probing analysis, and viable approaches to resolving these increasing societal problems for the contemplation of any reader.

Berger, Melvin. IF YOU LIVED ON MARS. 82 p. $13.95. Lodestar Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-67260-5) Grades 4-8

Written in the form of a visit to a human colony on Mars, this brief volume is an excellent primer on our nearest celestial neighbor. Fourteen short chapters blend three topics: 1) the hypothetical colony: dwellings, food, clothes, leisure, power, water, life support systems; 2) Mars itself: its atmosphere, weather, seasons, soil, features, moons; and 3) space exploration: unmanned landings, airships, planetary transportation, "terraforming" (creating Earthlike conditions on other planets). Couched in fun "What if?" chapters, the basic concepts of physical and space science are reviewed--e.g., the chapter on gravity stresses the sports and exercise one would do on Mars to maintain muscle tone. Because Mars is often compared with Earth, the book "disguises" an excellent review of Earth facts. Conversational prose is written in short, clear paragraphs. Black-and-white photographs and drawings are adequate though poorly reproduced. (A mediocre color section is more motivational than instructional.) A good index and a reading list conclude the text. Terms are defined in context (no glossary). This title will serve independent reading groups, group activities, and as a classroom reference.

Billings, Malcolm. THE CROSS AND THE CRESCENT: A HISTORY OF THE CRUSADES. 240 p. $14.95 paper. Sterling, 1990. (ISBN 0-8069-7364-1) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 7

This in-depth study of the Christian crusades of the Middle Ages grew out of a BBC radio series prepared by the author and reflects the high drama and color of a script while preserving the substance and perspective of a serious historical study. Malcolm Billings surveys the Crusades from their visionary inception by Christian churchmen and statesmen--"God wills it"--to the crusading movement itself, realized in "justified wars" against the "enemies of the Cross" that led to shocking brutality, desperate illnesses and homesickness, unprotected dependants and property left behind, and enormous expense all around, as well as the sacking and slaughter of "infidel" properties and people. Many black-and-white and color photographs greatly extend the text. An index, maps, and bibliography are useful. The reading level is sophisticated, the print small. This is not browsing material, although its illustrations will engage some browsers, but serious, excellent historical content for independent study.

Bode, Janet. NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: ORAL HISTORIES OF IMMIGRANT TEENS. 126 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10794-9) Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 17-22. Grade 10: CG 9. Grade 11: CG 17

Despite the breezy, deceptive title, these interviews with eleven young immigrants to this country are moving, often poignant, and always instructive accounts of their adjustment and of our culture as perceived by outsiders who have joined it. Their first-person narratives depict their loneliness,

awkwardness, ambivalence, and often ironic double vision which permits them to see national strengths that American youth never give a thought to and some national weaknesses that many natives consider strengths. Ranging from thirteen to twenty years old, youngsters from Afghanistan, El Salvador, Cuba, China, Greece, Vietnam, and Mexico are among the eleven boys and girls interviewed. There are no illustrations, but the young immigrants' vivid descriptions more than suffice for their omission. Source notes and a bibliography enlarge this text's usefulness for research on modern-day immigration.

Chaikin, Miriam. MENORAHS, MEZUZAS, AND OTHER JEWISH SYMBOLS. 102 p. $14.95. Clarion Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-89919-856-2) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 18 and 23. Grade 7: CG 3, 18, 20, and 23

In clear, conversational prose, Chaikin describes a multitude of Jewish symbols and rituals, tracing their history and explaining their significance. After first defining what a symbol is, the book's nine chapters categorize the symbols as they relate to various aspects of religion and culture, including the Sabbath, garments and dress, the State of Israel, homes, numbers, and holidays. References to the Bible, Talmud, and Midrash authenticate explanations and anecdotes. Dramatic, black-and-white, woodcut-like illustrations pictorialize these symbols and customs. Supplementary material includes a section of page-by-page notes and resources, a bibliography of references and books for young readers, and a thorough index. A comprehensive and comprehendable treatment, Chaikin's text is a fine reference for classroom use and personal interest.

Cheney, Glenn Alan. EL SALVADOR: COUNTRY IN CRISIS. Rev. ed. 127 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10916-X) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 10, 11, and 12

Updated from the 1972 edition, this volume offers a nonpartisan overview of the complex situation in El Salvador. After a geographical introduction and a concise history up to 1972, Cheney lays out a detailed, thoughtful review of the civil war from 1972 to 1989, including the death squads, the human rights role of the Catholic Church, and the Salvadoran refugees to the U. S. His chapters on land reform and on American foreign policy in El Salvador are thorough and carefully balanced. (The "another Cuba" or "another Vietnam" quotation on p. 94 is valuable for explaining opposing left- and right-wing views on U. S. policy in Central America and elsewhere.) Good, relevant black-and-white photographs and one map illustrate. A reading list and an index further research. This title will benefit high-level readers in their independent reading and research.

Clements, Gillian. THE TRUTH ABOUT CASTLES. 40 p. $12.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-87614-401-6) Grades 2-6. Grade 6: CG 19, 20, and 21

A visual adventure, Clements' colorful, informative book traces the history, design, and construction of castles and offers many insights into feudal life. Each turn of the page reveals intricate, detailed drawings, which skillfully blend pictorialized activities, a hand-printed array of facts and comical asides, and supplemental information in bookface type. For example, one notation about the use of treadmills for lifting heavy materials is placed beside a medieval version of one powered by a man walking inside it. A thought bubble overhead reads "Must feed the hamster." Students will be fascinated by this lively format and should linger long over the pages, discovering every bit of humor as well as absorbing the content. The book

concludes with a description of ten famous European castles, a glossary, and a helpful index. Just as the Where's Waldo? series provides an intelligent, creative supplement to teaching history, this very attractive volume presents a unique introduction to medieval castles appropriate for both gifted and reluctant readers.

Cobb, Vicki. THIS PLACE IS COLD. (Imagine Living Here Series) unp. $13.85. Walker & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8027-6853-9) Grades 1-3. Grade 1: CG 14. Grade 2: CG 18. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 18, and 19

Exceptionally beautiful artwork by Barbara Lavallee enhances a delightful book about the land, climate, plants, animals, and people of Alaska. Arresting statements launch the text: "Firewood is so frozen that one tap of an ax shatters a log . . . Your eyebrows and eyelashes freeze, but you don't dare rub them for fear they will break off . . . Glaciers are nature's giant bulldozers, and do they ever carve up the land!" Exquisite images of native peoples, plants, and animals inhabiting the land and waters near the Arctic Circle make the study of this frigid world fun. Readers learn about how glaciers form, how plants survive on tundra, and what caribou, moose, reindeer, and musk-ox eat, and more. Final chapters trace Alaskan history from earliest settlement to the gold rushes and the Alaskan pipeline. This book teaches how life adapts to a harsh environment in a colorful and charming presentation.

Cobb, Vicki. THIS PLACE IS DRY. (Imagine Living Here Series) unp. $13.85. Walker & Co., 1989. (ISBN 0-8027-8655-5) Grades 2-4

Exquisite color illustrations by Barbara Lavallee complement a lively, informative text on life in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. Readers learn why the Sonoran is called a "green" desert despite the observation that "if you could catch rain as it falls on any desert for a year, you would not fill a coffee can." The plant and animal diversity that lives in this dry environment is examined through a look at such plants as the giant saguaro cactus and such insects and spiders as the black widow, scorpion, and tarantula. Readers learn that eleven different kinds of rattlesnakes live in the desert, along with their worst enemy, the roadrunner. Irrigation methods of the ancient Hohokam peoples are contrasted with modern irrigation techniques that helped build the Salt River Project providing water and electricity to Phoenix. Through color, design, and text, the book conveys a sense of the beauty of this harsh environment while painlessly teaching geographic and science concepts such as biological adaptation.

Cohen, Daniel. ANCIENT GREECE. 45 p. $12.99. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-26065-2) Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 14, 15, and 17. Grade 5: CG 18 and 23

In an oversized format with lovely, full-color pictures by James Seward on every page, Cohen introduces young readers to ancient Greece from the Trojan War to Alexander the Great, touching briefly on famous personalities and historical events long enough to suggest a flavor of the culture and times. Seward's watercolor interpretations of the text against his backdrop of the ancient landscape will enchant students discovering the dateless origins of the Olympics, the ceremonious oracle at Delphi, the Eleusian Mysteries and Dionysian rites, as well as such figures and legends as Hector and Achilles, the Minotaur, the lost civilization of Atlantis, and Solon, Herodotus, Socrates, and Alexander. A comprehensive index concludes this introductory

title. In all the lavish pages no map of the Greek world appears, an oversight for students seeking to visualize the sites of Alexander's conquests or the Persian Wars. But the splendid cover and authentic, active artwork should tempt readers and viewers to seek out more detailed histories for substance--this one is a fine appetizer.

Cohen, Daniel. THE GHOSTS OF WAR. 95 p. $13.95. Putnam, 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22200-6) Grades 5-12

Intriguing and often suspenseful, this collection of stories about ghosts related to various wars from 12th-century Japan to World War II Europe is high-interest material suitable for reading aloud and for student browsing. Vivid detail and conversational style quickly involve the reader in tales that Cohen says he has heard or read. Occasionally, he identifies a source, but no footnote or bibliography documents it. Also, no pictures illustrate the material to lend authenticity. Yet the stories are reported as true, and at least two--about Stephen Decatur and the car in which Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated--may be found in other sources. Although especially valuable for reluctant readers, this book may spur any student to read more about the actual places, times, and battles described in these accounts.

Coote, Roger. ROMAN CITIES. (Beginning History Series) 24 p. $10.40. Bookwright Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-18343-2) Grades 1-3. Grade 1: CG 9, 10, and 11. Grade 2: CG 12, 13, 14, and 15

This simple introduction to life in, and familiar features of, the cities of the Roman Empire explains for beginning readers such staples as the forum, public baths, Roman houses and apartments, stores and taverns, temples, defenses, and the amphitheater. The text is often superimposed over full-color drawings of buildings and events held in them, such as a religious procession forming outside a temple and gladiators dueling in an amphitheater. In addition, excellent color photographs depict specific artifacts (e.g., a shrine inside a house in Pompeii where the family worshiped its gods; the remains of beautiful, mosaic-tiled baths). Important or unusual terms appear in bold type and are defined in context. Photographs are fully captioned. A brief glossary, bibliography, and index enable beginners to explore these research features. A minor complaint: The text stops abruptly with a sentence about the function of gatehouses almost as if a conclusion had been edited out. In contrast, the book opens with an introduction that leads smoothly from a short history of the Roman Empire into features of urban centers. Apart from this disconcertion, the colorful, well-defined contents and uncondescending prose will interest early grades discovering world heritages.

Cray, Ed, et al. AMERICAN DATELINES. 382 p. $24.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2033-7) Grades 7-12

In a selection of over 140 major news stories as well as human-interest articles drawn from newspaper files from the Colonial period to the 1980s, this volume gives the flavor of the times and the immediate response of the nation and the media when these big news events were actually breaking. Included are such exciting and historic occasions as the Boston Tea Party reported by The Massachusetts Gazette and Boston News-Letter, the death in duel of Alexander Hamilton reported by The New York Evening Post, life aboard a westward-bound wagon train as recorded in 1849 in The Cincinnati Argus, and the Battle of Gettysburg chronicled by the National Intelligencer. The book

closes with the 1989 Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound. A headnote preceding each reproduced news article puts the event into historical context for readers. An annotated table of contents is particularly useful, as are an alphabetized list of newspapers and syndicates represented in the volume and an index. This title could invigorate a history class focusing on any of these major events, demonstrating that, for participants and informed citizens, these events were not "history" but life itself.

Davis, Bertha. AMERICA'S HOUSING CRISIS. 144 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10917-8) Grades 9-12. Grade 9: CG 15. Grade 11: CG 17

In a well-researched, balanced survey of a critical problem in the United States, Davis' chapters focus on homelessness, low-income rental housing, public housing, the voucher system and other innovations, the rental squeeze and rent control, obstacles to home ownership, community battles over low-rent housing projects, housing discrimination and the Yonkers crisis, and local rehabilitation projects. Opposing viewpoints on these controversial topics receive full, clear coverage. Individuals' stories are interwoven with more technical explanations of policy and economics. The book is most appropriate for high-level readers although the human-interest sections are accessible to average readers. Relevant photographs in black and white expand the content as do useful charts, a thorough glossary, a good reading list, and a subject index. This title will enrich independent reading and research collections for U.S. history and courses in current issues, civics/government, and economics.

Dolan, Edward F. AMERICA AFTER VIETNAM: LEGACIES OF A HATED WAR. 160 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10793-0) Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 18 and 23. Grade 9: CG 13. Grade 11: CG 17

A unique text identifies five haunting "legacies" of the Vietnam War. The first three involve the returned veterans: their sense of alienation and rejection as "losers" or "killers," their health risks associated with Agent Orange, and their lingering "invisible wounds" of substance abuse, criminal behavior, and emotional problems (especially Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome). Other legacies are MIAs--the controversial search for survivors or their remains--and Indochinese refugees, including boat people, children fathered by U.S. soldiers, and U.S. immigrants from the region. Despite its title, this is not an anti-American or polemical volume (several times Dolan skims over uncomfortable facts about U.S. involvement in the war). The tone is realistic, compassionate, nonaccusatory, and sensitive to diverse views on the war's value. Black-and-white photographs of varying quality illustrate. An excellent reading list supplements the book's research usefulness as does an adequate index. This volume fits an important niche, especially for those students with relatives who fought in the Vietnam War.

Dolan, Edward F. MIA: MISSING IN ACTION. A VIETNAM DRAMA. 128 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10665-9) Grades 8-12. Grade 11: CG 16

Dolan attempts to clarify the preponderance of conflicting views and facts on Vietnam MIAs in the light of reports of sightings, evidence of living American soldiers still held in Southeast Asia, official statements, and the accusations and suspicions of citizens and government officials. The problem is personalized by stories of specific, named servicemen seen being taken prisoner by North Vietnamese soldiers or witnessed parachuting from planes or reported to have disappeared when rescue teams reached crash sites. Dolan

discusses reasons for officials' doubts about reported sightings by Vietnamese refugees but also provides evidence to support accounts of living POWs held in Vietnam. A summary of diplomatic, Congressional, and private actions on behalf of MIAs from 1982 to 1988 suggests that progress has been made in the matter although the 2410 Americans unaccounted for remain a heartache undiminished by these efforts. This book fills a special need for those studying the repercussion of the Vietnam War and those whose relatives participated in that war.

Elkington, John, et al. GOING GREEN: A KID'S HANDBOOK TO SAVING THE PLANET. 111 p. $14.95. Viking, 1990. (ISBN 0-670-83611-7) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 7, 11, 18, and 23. Grade 6: CG 13. Grade 7: CG 12. Grade 8: CG 1

Written in upbeat, conversational prose, Going Green is a "how-to" guide for young people which informs them on environmental issues and promotes their involvement. The book's introduction empowers students by advising them to ask questions and by assuring them that their participation is necessary. Sections which outline important issues, such as the greenhouse effect, air and water pollution, acid rain, and the vanishing rain forests, conclude with practical examples of things students can do. "Green audits" for home, school, and community are explained in detail and suggest marvelous individual and group projects. An exceptional A-to-Z list of ideas, a bibliography for further reading, the names and addresses of national organizations to contact, and a concluding index are valuable reference material. Information is displayed in an exciting format which employs Tony Ross's color cartoons, bold headings and important instructions, symbolic pointing fingers to indicate significant points, and green marginal notes headed "Amazing Fact." Students will be fascinated to read that two Wisconsin seventh graders helped raise money to purchase and preserve five acres in a Central American rain forest and that one quart of motor oil disposed of improperly can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water. This excellent resource could supplement meaningful interdisciplinary units on the environment in science, math, and social studies.

Fluek, Toby Knobel. MEMORIES OF MY LIFE IN A POLISH VILLAGE, 1930-1949. 110 p. $19.95. Knopf, 1990. (ISBN 0-394-58617-4) Grades 6-10. Grade 6: CG 3, 17, and 19. Grade 10: CG 2, 5, 6, and 7

A riveting, luminous memoir, Fluek's moving collection of detail-filled paintings, drawings, and text traces her experiences as a Jewish girl growing up in peaceful, 1930s Poland through her survival of the tragic war years. Gorgeous still lifes, portraits of family members and neighbors, and scenes depicting orthodox Jewish culture and events in the girl's life decorate each page along with a title and explanatory text in clear, informative prose. Divided into chapters, the book records the generations-old life of village Jews of Eastern Europe and how it was shattered by Russian and German occupation. An added bonus is the author's use and definition of special words like shande (shame), shtreimel (a fur hat), and cheder (Hebrew school). This beautiful, personal account would be appropriate supplementary material for the study of Polish social life and customs, Jewish culture and religion, the history of World War II, and 20th-century art.

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. THE CONNECTICUT COLONY. (The Thirteen Colonies Series) 160 p. $15.95. Childrens, 1990. (ISBN 0-516-00393-3) Grades 4-7. Grade 5: CG 19-23

Dennis Fradin's history of Colonial Connecticut, another text in the author's fine series of books on each of the original thirteen colonies, incorporates the same excellent quality and abundance of period graphics, maps, and special features (margin illustrations and biographical insets) that enlivened previous titles in the series. In a comprehensive review of the Connecticut Colony from its pristine period of preColonial Indian habitation up through its ratification of the Constitution in 1788, the story of the Constitution State is animated by Fradin's vigorous, anecdotal style and verbal portraits of prominent individuals (Nathan Hale, Israel Putnam, Benedict Arnold). Accounts of Colonial wars, the founding of Yale, and the life and habits of Connecticut Yankees are well spun and peppered with specifics. The narrative is sensitive to Indians of the region and to abuses suffered by Connecticut tribes, especially the Pequots, from aggressive English colonization. A time line and index aid research. Students of the Colonial period will be engrossed by this unpatronizing, detailed story of Connecticut and, by extension, the fledgling American nation.

Fradin, Dennis Brindell. THE GEORGIA COLONY. (The Thirteen Colonies Series) 143 p. $15.95. Childrens, 1990. (ISBN 0-516-00392-5) Grades 3-6. Grade 5: CG 11, 20, 21, and 23

An interesting exploration of Colonial Georgia, The Georgia Colony includes details on the state's geography, famous Georgians, Creek and Cherokee Indians, the early Spanish, French, and English settlers, Revolutionary battles, and the reasons for Georgia's failure to send delegates to the First Continental Congress. Daily life in the colony as well as biographical information on historical figures--Tomochichi, James Oglethorpe, Mary Musgrove, George Whitefield, Henry Ellis, Button Gwinnett--is plentiful. This book, like previous titles by Fradin on the original colonies, is useful for research, especially for classes comparing Colonial life in North Carolina with that in other states. Black-and-white drawings, maps, and other graphics, a time line, and index.

Fradon, Dana. HAROLD THE HERALD: A BOOK ABOUT HERALDRY. unp. $14.95. Dutton, 1990. (ISBN 0-525-44634-6) Grades 3-7. Grade 6: CG 19, 20, and 21

A New Yorker cartoonist, Dana Fradon is an amateur medievalist who has created this book as a companion to his earlier text, Sir Dana, a Knight. Once again he uses the artifice of a talking suit-of-armor who visits a class of schoolchildren, this time to narrate the life and duties of a herald. Humorous watercolor cartoons illustrate the roles of these indispensable medieval recordkeepers as messengers, reporters, sportscasters, and sometimes spies. Much interesting and useful information is contained in the text, but several flaws are apparent. For one thing, the writing on the initial pages unnecessarily talks down to the reader as it sets up the premise of a suit-of-armor narrator. The actual story of Harold, thankfully, drops this elementary style. Also, readers may have trouble with Fradon's use of color-coded footnotes to define terms and otherwise to extend the text. The purpose might have been better achieved through bolding the vocabulary and including a glossary instead of relying on colored dots. Finally, there is no index. Teachers can glean helpful material from this book, but its use as a supplement to a unit on medieval history is limited.

Franck, Irene M., and David M. Brownstone. MANUFACTURERS AND MINERS. (Work Throughout History Series) 166 p. $17.95. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-1447-7) Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 11, 13, and 18. Grade 7: CG 10, 12, and 20. Grade 9: CG 7. Grade 10: CG 2 and 12. Grade 11: CG 3 and 10

An addition to the Work Throughout History Series, this latest book traces the evolution of manufacturing and mining through various cultures over several centuries. Chapters identify assayers, factory workers, mechanics and repairers, metalsmiths, miners and quarriers, power and fuel merchants, vehicle makers, weapon makers, and well diggers and drillers as major categories. The origin and development of individual occupations, such as metal refiners and salt traders, are documented as well as their significance to countries' economies. Characterized by readable, if not engaging, prose, the text is illustrated by occasional black-and-white photographs and woodcut prints. Each chapter concludes with a list of related occupations. Suggestions for further reading and a thorough index complete this book. Informative and well researched, this title could supplement social studies reading and reporting on a variety of grade levels.

Gallant, Roy A. THE PEOPLING OF PLANET EARTH: HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH THROUGH THE AGES. 163 p. $15.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-735772-4) Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 14 and 15. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 10: CG 5, 11, and 12. Grade 11: CG 18

Roy Gallant brings his impressive expertise to bear on the critical issue of population explosions over the world in a review of the origins of the human race according to both myth and science, the rise of cities, migrations, population trends, and the depletion of natural resources. Gallant's narrative on prehistoric transformations in human beings and their survival skills is an interesting study of the emergence of homo sapiens, the shift from hunting and gathering to farming, and the social changes wrought by agriculture, including the clustering of people in fertile areas and, in turn, the growth of cities. Charts, descriptive chronologies, tables, and other statistics provide strong support for the remainder of the text's emphasis on overpopulation, food and energy concerns, pollution of the earth's resources, and the effects of "runaway world population" on the quality of life. This title offers sound facts and searching questions for students of environmental and urban issues and to those simply awakened to the urgency of the planet's health. A glossary, bibliography, and index are most helpful, as is an explicit table of contents.

Gay, Kathlyn. THEY DON'T WASH THEIR SOCKS! SPORTS SUPERSTITIONS. 114 p. $14.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6917-9) Grades 4-7. Grade 5: CG 18, 19, and 23. Grade 6: CG 18

Beginning with baseball, called "the most superstitious sport of all," and concluding with fishing, this study of the phenomena of ritual and belief in sports and games of all types is comprehensive, almost encyclopedic in scope. Mascots, charms, lucky clothes and equipment, the magic of certain numbers, colors, and names, and the often elaborate routines that just might guarantee success are described in easy-to-read prose. Although the majority of the examples reported tend toward the humorous, like hockey great Wayne Gretsky's tucking his jersey into just one side of his pants--the right side--or pitcher Mark "the Bird" Fidrych's precision antics with bubble gum, the serious nature of superstition and the consequences of belief are documented for both amateur

enthusiast as well as professional. For example, legendary fighter Sugar Ray Robinson never ignored his dreams after one foretold the death of an opponent. Because the historical roots of custom and ritual in such ancient civilizations as the Aztec and the Greek are reported, this book could supplement class discussion in middle grades social studies as a useful reference as well as a compendium of contemporary examples. Wide margins and John Kerschbaum's humorous cartoons which illustrate this book add to its appeal. Teachers looking for materials to teach sports-related electives or reluctant readers at any level can definitely use it, along with the concluding bibliography for further reading and the index. The book is also just plain fun, especially for Trivial Pursuit fans.

Gay, Kathlyn. WATER POLLUTION. 144 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10949-6) Grades 7-12

A wealth of detail and scholarly reporting are highlights of this informative consideration of the very critical issue of water pollution. The text lays ample foundation for suggested individual activism by tracing the problem through chapters on ground water, waste water, the vanishing wetlands, and contaminated lakes, rivers, and oceans. After identifying major polluters (including industry, agriculture, and individuals) and pollutants (such as factory chemicals, detergents, fertilizers, sewage, and oil), the book outlines environmental laws, group programs for conservation and recycling, and the aforementioned suggestions for what else can be done locally and nationally. A list of agencies to contact is provided for individuals who wish to do something positive about the problem. Substantial margins and sizable print make the potentially overwhelming material both readable and inviting. Illustrations are limited in number: a few well-chosen diagrams and some black-and-white photos, which could use more focus and light. Concluding reference materials include ample source notes, glossary, further reading, and index.

Giblin, James Cross. THE RIDDLE OF THE ROSETTA STONE: KEY TO ANCIENT EGYPT. 85 p. $13.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04799-1) Grades 5-7. Grade 7: CG 21, 22, and 23

Any middle grader remotely interested in Egypt and/or language will enjoy poring over Giblin's readable saga of the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, efforts to decipher it, and the shared scholarship which finally broke the code. Giblin chronicles in depth for this age group the work of the two men most responsible for its translation, Thomas Young and Jean-Francois Champollion. But the stone itself is the star of this fascinating sleuthing into the ancient past, and, although illustrations are all black and white and undramatic, the story itself compensates for visual blandness. Students will learn in some technical detail how the Rosetta Stone was finally forced to yield up its secrets and thus those of Egyptian hieroglyphics, and they can participate in the code-breaking process through samples reproduced graphically on several pages. Appended are excerpts translated from the stone as well as a bibliography and index.

Gonick, Larry. THE CARTOON HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE, VOLUMES 1-7. 358 p. $14.95 paper. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-26520-4) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 2-8

Unique, comprehensive, humorous, and fact-filled, Larry Gonick's pictorial chronicle of life on this planet traces history from its beginning until approximately 330 B. C. The seven volumes mentioned in the title are actually the seven chapters, which provide detailed accounts of the creation of the universe, the various evolutionary stages of man and other life forms, the early civilizations of Sumer and Egypt, Old Testament history, Ancient Greece, and profiles of important legendary and historical figures, such as Abraham, Helen of Troy, and Socrates. Facetiously, Gonick portrays himself as a mad professor from Harvard who has invented a time machine, and this character introduces each chapter and appears occasionally in the text to give explanation. Far from frivolous, however, this chronicle contains in-depth research as well as up-to-date scientific information, such as biochemist Gunter Wachtershauser's 1988 theory of the beginning of life. It is a wonderful, creative supplement for basic as well as interdisciplinary study in science, math, the arts, language arts, and especially social studies. However, adult topics, such as violence, sexuality, nudity, and homosexuality, are treated frankly, though in cartoon rather than realistic form. Faculty will need to preview this text before purchase. Clever footnotes and a seven-page, illustrated bibliography provide additional material for this unusual, stimulating reference. Although most appropriate for the gifted student, this versatile text will certainly enliven any classroom discussion and student reporting about material it covers.

Graff, Nancy Price. THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS: A PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY FARM. 80 p. $14.45. Little, 1989. (ISBN 0-316-32277-6) Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 21 and 24. Grade 5: CG 13 and 23.

There is a rhythm and richness to Nancy Graff's writing style that make this chronicle of one summer's day on the Nelson family farm a pleasure to read and a good choice for reading aloud. Richard Howard's warm, affectionate, black-and-white photographs complement descriptions of the pattern and process of activity needed to run a dairy. Alluded to in the text are changes that have occurred during the 170 years the seven generations of one family have worked the same land. Economic factors related to self-sufficiency, the need for supplemental income, and the important place in the business community occupied by the family farm are illustrated. Nelson grandparent, parents, and children work side-by-side and are pictured growing crops for the table and market, working at mail routes and 4-H projects, and welcoming various businessmen they help support, like the veterinarian and cattle buyer. A useful resource for class discussion and student reports.

Halsey, David, with Diana Landau. MAGNETIC NORTH: A TREK ACROSS CANADA. 252 p. $19.95. Sierra Club Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-87156-746-6) (Available from Random) Grades 9-12. Grade 11: CG 1

A vivid, riveting adventure, Magnetic North chronicles David Halsey's two-year, 4,700-mile journey across Canada, using a wilderness route and primitive means ("foot, snowshoe, cargo toboggan, and canoe"). An exceptional storyteller, Halsey with his editor, Diane Landau, has fashioned a fascinating, first-person narrative that includes journal entries, personal letters, and other exposition to describe the people, wildlife, natural wonders, and dangers he encountered. A black-and-white map of the entire

route concludes an introductory prologue, which provides important background information about the inception of this Trans-Canada Expedition and, more important, about its visionary, David Halsey. Portions of this map then reappear throughout the journal-format text. A small collection of color photographs also aids readers to visualize people and places. A bibliography and index of place names conclude the book. Like Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Alexander Mackenzie, and other explorers he idolized, twenty-year-old Halsey was a man driven by a dream and by a need to test the limits of his endurance. An excellent reference for interdisciplinary study of Canadian geography and culture, Halsey's saga also provides high-interest material for a unit combining fictional works by Jack London and biographies of Byrd et al.

Hanmer, Trudy J. UGANDA. 128 p. $12.40. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10816-3) Grades 6-12. Grade 7: CG 15, 22, and 23. Grade 10: CG 2, 3, and 5

Called "the pearl of Africa" by Winston Churchill, Uganda is a tragic figure among the developing African nations. Hanmer's book documents the country's plight as victim of both disease, from sleeping sickness to AIDS, and of its leaders, most notably the murderous Idi Amin. Beginning pages offer an informative introduction to Uganda's geography, climate, resources, and people. The majority of the text details Uganda's history from its tradition of tribal kingdoms through its relationship with Great Britain to the mass murder of its people and the destruction of the country's economy by the dictators who followed its independence in 1962. Black-and-white photographs and contemporary drawings and political cartoons extend the text. A concluding glossary of terms and names is helpful but could have been more useful if phonetic pronunciations had been included. A four-page index is a valuable aid for student reporting.

Hausherr, Rosmarie. THE CITY GIRL WHO WENT TO SEA. unp. $14.95. Four Winds, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-743421-4) Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 19, and 22. Grade 5: CG 1, 2, 9, 11, 17, 18, and 22

Hausherr's black-and-white photo essay chronicles a New York City ten-year-old's summer visit to relatives living in Salvage, an idyllic fishing village on Canada's island, Newfoundland. People in this remote community "live in much the same way as their great-great-grandparents from Scotland, England, and Ireland did." Men fish, and women care for "family, house, and garden." Alicia compares city life with the day-to-day activities of Salvage as she assists the postmistress, checks lobster pots, and watches craftsmen make quilts and birch brooms. Striking photographs and conversation-filled text create vivid, affectionate portraits of people she meets. Because the actual visit took place in 1977, Hausherr includes an update, which documents few changes in the village as of 1989. A brief overview of Newfoundland history and pictorial fishing glossary conclude the book, which is useful for discussions on communities, preserving traditions, and North American geography.

Herda, D. J. THE AFGHAN REBELS: THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN. 128 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10897-X) Grades 6-12. Grade 6: CG 6, 10, 15, 17, and 21. Grade 7: CG 2, 4, 5, 18, and 23. Grade 10: CG 5, 7, and 10

Freelance writer and photographer D. J. Herda's stated purpose in this text is to report the details of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and profile the resistance fighters. He does so in a way that few could because he knows this country and its people intimately. Written with respect and admiration, the

often compelling text describes incidents based on fact, but names, dates, and locations have been altered to protect rebels from reprisals from the Soviet-backed government. Information gleaned from interviews with members of several groups who are united as the mujahedin ("warriors of Islam" and "protectors of the faith") fills chapters which alternate between objective reporting of events to descriptive passages and conversations. After a general introduction to Afghanistan's geography, climate, population, and history, the book jumps into details of the Soviet invasion and occupation, U. S. and Pakistan involvement, rebel raids and fighting in the rugged mountains, the Soviet economic and political upheaval as well as decline of public support, and problems since the signing of the peace and plans for withdrawal. Interwoven are glimpses at a culture relatively unchanged for 2,000 years. Black-and-white photographs and maps have informative captions, and a bibliography and index are helpful for research and discussion.

Hewitt, Joan. GETTING ELECTED: THE DIARY OF A CAMPAIGN. 48 p. $13.95. Lodestar Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-67259-1) Grades 3-7. Grade 3: CG 10, 11, 12, and 13. Grade 5: CG 3, 4, 5, and 6

This photographic essay provides a very good, behind-the-scenes look at the election process. Gloria Molina was the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the California State Assembly when she decided to become a candidate for the Los Angeles City Council from a newly created district. This book traces Gloria's campaign from her announcement and organization of her staff and headquarters to her election and victory celebration. While Richard Hewitt's black-and-white photographs show the candidate and her organization at work, the text describes facets of her political campaign, such as door-to-door canvassing and coffees to meet voters, candidate forums and debates, the use of neighborhood "walkers" to get out the vote, and overcoming negative tactics by opponents as well as chauvinistic attitudes about women in politics. A brief reading list and index supplement the material of this topical, interesting resource for class discussion and student reporting. Unfortunately, this excellent book is not available in reinforced binding.

Hewett, Joan. HECTOR LIVES IN THE UNITED STATES NOW: THE STORY OF A MEXICAN-AMERICAN CHILD. 44 p. $13.89. Lippincott, 1990. (ISBN 0-397-32278-X) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 5, 6, and 10. Grade 3: CG 7 and 12. Grade 5: CG 2, 4, and 15-19

Although the subject of this easy-to-read book is ten-year-old Hector Almaraz, the text incorporates such topics as the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, undocumented aliens living in this country and their problems, the United States as a nation of immigrants, and a description of a Mexican-American community in Los Angeles. Hector's family is representative of the 1,600,000 aliens provided amnesty and granted legal residence by the 1986 legislation. Black-and-white photographs by Richard Hewett depict Hector's day-to-day world and also capture some special aspects, like Hector's preparation for Holy Communion and his parents studying for citizenship. Blended into Hector's story is information about Mexico, about customs that Mexican-Americans perpetuate, and about U. S. citizenship. However, while the pictures have a candid, family-album quality, they are not uniformly clear or crisp. A list of further reading provides titles on Mexican history and culture, biographies of Mexican-Americans, and books about other Hispanic groups. This book could be an interesting supplement to class discussions about our nation's immigrant history, its tradition as a "land of opportunity," and the relationship between the United States and Mexico.

Himelstein, Shmuel. THE JEWISH PRIMER: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON JEWISH FAITH AND CULTURE. 254 p. $21.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2322-0) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Written to introduce, to inform, and to clarify, Rabbi Himelstein's primer employs the question-and-answer teaching format used by rabbis for centuries to explain the facets of Judaism. Custom, ritual, and law established by 3,500 years of culture and religion are described in concise, informative answers. To educate nonJewish and Jewish readers alike, Himelstein combines basic material, such as definitions of the Talmud and Torah, with in-depth inquiry, such as "What are the arba minim?" Chapters organize these dialogues according to subject, ranging from the Jewish calendar and ritual objects to modern-day Israel and 20th-century issues. Black-and-white photographs of artifacts, paintings, and contemporary practice illustrate the text. A thorough index concludes this scholarly volume. Although the format is manageable by students of all abilities, this text is most appropriate for above-average readers. In light of current events, information on Jewish culture and history is a valuable supplement to class discussion and student reporting.

Hoig, Stan. A CAPITAL FOR THE NATION. 132 p. $15.95. Cobblehill Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-65034-2) Grades 4-8. Grade 5: CG 3

In photographs, reproductions of old prints, and a flowing text, Stan Hoig traces the history of the United States capital from its origins through its construction and growth, emphasizing national buildings and monuments which make Washington, D.C., distinctive and symbolic. Quotations from historic sources give flavor and immediacy to such projects as the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument during well-recorded festivities on July 4, 1848, and the thoughtful location of the Lincoln Memorial, in the words of Lincoln's secretary John Hay, at an "isolated, distinguished and serene" point away from the bustle of the city. Text and well-captioned illustrations harmonize in a pleasant introduction to such American icons as the Jefferson Memorial, the Capitol, the White House, and Mount Vernon. A bibliography and index aid research.

Jacobs, William Jay. ELLIS ISLAND: NEW HOPE IN A NEW LAND. 34 p. $13.95. Scribner, 1990. (ISBN 0-684-19171-7) Grades 3-5. Grade 5: CG 18, 22, and 23

Black-and-white photographs of the period eloquently portray Mr. Jacobs' moving description of the American immigrant experience at Ellis Island. The son of immigrants himself, the author begins his chronicle with March 27, 1907, which was the arrival date for 16,050 immigrants--"the greatest number in any one day of American history." His moving text gives details of hardships these people endured during their three-week voyage by ship and during the often dehumanizing process once they arrived. For a minimum of four hours, the weary newcomers went from one line to another to receive a medical exam, to be questioned, to exchange money, and sometimes to get a name change during the confusion. For example, Smalovsky became Smith, and Jacobovitz became Jacobs. Other information includes how the island got its name, its history from 1892 until its close in 1954, and some details about its clean-up for America's Bicentennial in 1976 as well as the new museum and the proposed Immigrant Wall of Honor. The last chapter looks at today's immigrants and the countries from which they come. A brief index concludes this useful reference.

Josephs, Jeremy. SWASTIKA OVER PARIS. 192 p. $19.95. Arcade Pub. Inc., 1989. (ISBN 1-55970-036-X) (Available from Little) Grades 9-12. Grade 11: CG 15

Focusing on French anti-Semitism during the German occupation after 1940, Jeremy Josephs adds important content to any study of the Holocaust. The main characters in this powerful account of the fate of the Jews in France are Armand Kohn, arrested by Austrian SS men and murdered in Auschwitz; Paulette Szlifke, a young militant whose family fled from Poland into France where Paulette joined the Resistance; and Alois Brunner, right-hand man to Eichmann sent to Paris to hunt and return Jews to Drancy, "the antechamber of death" and holding cell for Jews on their way to death in Auschwitz. This book strips the veil from the face of France under Occupation forces and reveals the ugly anti-Semitism supported through the Vichy government's police and numerous anti-Jewish laws as well as through the initial indifference of ordinary French citizens. It also features the tragic story of Jews who pretended to support Nazism in order to survive and were of course murdered. Family portraits, pictures of victims and of Brunner, handwritten notes from victims being deported, telegrams communicating the loss of family members, and messages attached to photographs of missing children are among a series of black-and-wite photographs that add poignancy to a compelling story. For all studies of the Holocaust, this title provides valuable historical and biographical information.

Kane, Joe. RUNNING THE AMAZON. 278 p. $19.95. Knopf, 1989. (ISBN 0-394-55331-4) Grades 9-12

Excitement, danger, intrigue, and adventure spill from these pages that spin the tale of a history-making, six-month expedition which maneuvered for the first time the full length of the 4,200-mile Amazon River. The only American and one of the four out of a group of ten explorers who completed the journey, Kane shares a vivid, firsthand account of the experience made even more remarkable by the mode of transportation--the kayak. The book begins in August, 1985, with portraits of Kane's fellow travelers and documents their often harrowing encounters with whitewater rapids, cocaine manufacturers, Maoist guerrillas, and other threats to life and limb. Lively, imaginative prose describes people and cultures hidden for centuries along the river, bringing an unknown world into focus for the reader. Although the book is most appropriate for advanced readers, Kane's references to Joseph Conrad and obvious comparisons to similar fictional journeys suggest use of passages, if not the whole book, in interdisciplinary study. Students of all levels will be captivated by hearing and reading for themselves appropriate selections from this action-packed account.

Katz, William Loren. BREAKING THE CHAINS: AFRICAN-AMERICAN SLAVE RESISTANCE. 194 p. $14.95. Atheneum, 1990. (ISBN 0-689-31493-0) Grades 8-12. Grade 8: CG 10. Grade 11: CG 9

A powerful and thought-provoking book, Breaking the Chains uses primary sources to explode myths about slavery in the United States and about African-Americans' contributions to their own emancipation. Quotations from a variety of recorded materials include the words of many unknown and well-known victims, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Katz' documented evidence exposes an apparent conspiracy among bigoted, though scholarly and respected, historians, who perpetuated such misrepresentations as "slaves loved their masters and were happy in bondage" and African-Americans "were the only people in the history of the world who became free without any effort of

their own." Chapters trace the history of slavery in the United States, harsh living conditions in cities and on plantations, incidents of both active and passive resistance and actual revolts as slaves fought for rights, African-American involvement in the Civil War, and their impact on music, religion, American history, and race relations. Black-and-white photographs and reproductions augment this informative, valuable text. A thorough bibliography and index conclude it. Katz builds the case that these courageous individuals are part of our country's heroic heritage, like the defiant minutemen and the brave pioneers, and that "to justify slavery, masters bent history, truth, and the Bible to their purposes." This text is an excellent, almost essential supplement to the study of North Carolina and United States history.

Kaufmann, John. VOYAGER: FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD. 64 p. $13.95. Enslow Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89490-185-0) Grades 5-10. Grade 5: CG 23. Grade 6: CG 18

A tale of creativity, adventure, and triumph, this story of two heroic pilots, Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan, recounts their 1986 nonstop flight around the world in Voyager, a fuel-efficient, lightweight aircraft, a feat reminiscent of the earliest, daring days of aviation. A conversational account of how the idea was born, the motivation behind it, and an exposition of the major characters, the co-pilots, and the designer set the stage for this drama. Details about design, building materials, and structure reflect the ingenuity and efficiency of the plan. Accounts of problems and crises--including Typhoon Marge, damaged wingtips, fuel leaks, thunderstorms, and engine failure--are riveting. A few mediocre black-and-white photographs illustrate. Interesting, inspiring reading, this title will motivate students to read for pleasure.

Kuklin, Susan. GOING TO MY NURSERY SCHOOL. unp. $12.95. Bradbury Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-02-751237-1) Grades K-1. Grade K: CG 7. Grade 1: CG 1

Although the subject is a child's day at his nursery school, there are at least two appropriate uses for this book in a public school library. One, teachers can combine it with other materials to introduce the school experience to children new to it. Many of the activities pictured in this colorful photo essay are similar to those in a kindergarten and first grade environment. Kuklin's lively photographs show boys and girls saying good-bye to parents, working in centers, cleaning up, toileting, eating snacks, playing on a playground, singing, sharing in a "show-and-tell" time, and listening to stories. Two, a child may select this title on a trip to the library for pleasure reading or listening because he is familiar with nursery schools, having attended one. Although told from a four-year-old point of view, there are some challenging words with which beginning readers will need help. Delightful endpapers of preschoolers' marker drawings add to this positive impression of the school experience. Parents will appreciate a concluding section offering advice on how to select a good nursery school. One flaw, however, is the lack of minorities among both children and staff pictured in this class. Although it is interesting to note the Ebony magazine cover of the Reverend Martin Luther King displayed on a classroom bulletin board shown on the book jacket, Orientals and Hispanics are the only recognizable minorities in these photographs.

Lampton, Christopher. PREDICTING NUCLEAR AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS. (Predicting Series) 144 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10784-1) Grades 7-12. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 10: CG 12. Grade 11: CG 18

This volume addresses itself to the risks of modern technology and how we can limit and offset them. It offers challenging sections on probabilistic risk analysis, including fault trees and event trees. The potential for nuclear disasters emerges in analyses further substantiated by explanations of the accidents at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. And the book reviews risks in the chemical industry, such as those which resulted in the Bhopal tragedy, and in biological research, such as recombinant DNA technology. Appropriate photographs, numerous diagrams, a reading list, and an index expand the book's use as a major research source. A unique title, this sobering and detailed study will equip environmentally conscious students with important facts as well as aid teachers and the school community to grasp the vital statistics of an urgent issue. A by-product of the book's content is its appropriateness for mathematics courses that include probability theory.

Landau, Elaine. CHILD ABUSE: AN AMERICAN EPIDEMIC. Rev. ed. 138 p. $11.98. Messner, 1990. (ISBN 0-671-68874-X) Grades 7-12. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 9: CG 15. Grade 11: CG 17

Painful accounts of specific cases of child abuse bring this problem into clear focus in an overview of the hows and whys of child abuse, ways in which society has failed families plagued by the problem, and the means and sources of help available. A case in point is that of Kevin, who celebrated his third birthday with his grandmother, after which he was returned home to his father--unemployed and angry--who kicked his son to death. Shocking case studies similar to Kevin's comprise a chapter entitled "American Tragedies." An analysis of how such tragedies occur follows, with the conclusion that adult privacy is often more respected than child safety. The text lists and discusses causes of child abuse, namely, socially isolated parents, a lack of personal or community support systems, substance abuse among parents, the link with wife beating, the cycle of abused children growing up to become abusive parents, and a general lack of parenting skills. Separate chapters examine emotional and sexual abuse and the effects on children. Documentation validates content. An extensive reading list and an index supplement the research potential of this topic for students. This book can educate teachers, counselors, parents, and children about the tragedy, for which a large part of the solution appears to be education itself.

Lang, Susan S. EXTREMIST GROUPS IN AMERICA. 174 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10901-1) Grades 9-12. Grade 9: CG 1 and 15. Grade 11: CG 17

Introduced with four recent and unsettling incidents of murder by extremists, this topical book surveys current hate groups in the United States, their leaders and agendas, recruitment tactics, information networks, and acts of harassment and violence. Groups profiled are primarily white supremacists and virulent anti-Semites. Several chapters focus on individual extremists and their followers. Included are the Ku Klux Klan and its splinter groups, the "Christian" Identity movement and its hate theology, neo-Nazis and "skinheads," right-wing nonviolent extremists such as Lyndon LaRouche, and far-left Black extremists such as Louis Farrakhan. Concluding pages discuss the history and psychological causes of bigotry and offer tactics for fighting extremism. The format maximizes easy reading with its use of italicized block quotations, examples presented in list form, and uncrowded pages.

Detail-filled and straightforward, the prose is appropriate for all reading levels. Black-and-white photographs are compelling but not sensationalist. Source notes, a list for further reading, and a six-page index add to the value of this reference. Reading and class discussion of this timely book may help some students avoid the allure of teen hate groups. An important text for teachers, counselors, and administrators.

Lawson, Don. THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE: AMERICANS FIGHTING FASCISM IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR. 160 p. $11.89. Crowell, 1989. (ISBN 0-690-04699-5) Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 15

The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939, is a chapter of history fading in immediacy as those who participated in it are dying out and most of today's generation know little or nothing of it. Focusing on Americans who volunteered to fight the Fascism of Franco, Mussolini, and Hitler, Don Lawson follows members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade from basic training in Spain to the beginning of the war in Morocco when Franco declared a revolution against the Spanish government, through the battlefield valor of those defending the Loyalists' cause. Lawson pays particular attention to forces that motivated young Americans to join the Spanish cause. He also analyzes other Americans' attitudes and the stance of American political figures at the time, specifically FDR in 1932. An afterword summarizes the effects of Franco's victory and recounts how that war contributed to World War II. Contemporary photographs, suggestions for further reading and an index extend the book's usefulness. Without compromising good style and sophistication, the author writes with a clarity that will make his audience comfortable.

Lee, Sally. THE THROWAWAY SOCIETY. (Impact Series) 128 p. $12.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10947-X) Grades 6-12. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 9: CG 15. Grade 10: CG 11 and 12. Grade 11: CG 15

The ever-increasing dilemma of waste disposal in a "throwaway" society occupies this issue-oriented review of America and the world's environmental crisis. How to dispose of solid waste, from collecting and transporting it, removing it from dumps to landfills, incinerating, recycling, dumping it in the ocean, and the problems of toxic waste--all are subjects addressed in clear, comprehensive chapters written in conversational English. Diagrams and black-and-white photographs (which lack contrast) are pertinent and well captioned. A glossary, bibliography, and index enable excellent research possibilities. A strength of the text is its emphasis on individual effort and commitment to reducing this environmental hazard.

Lindop, Edmund. THE BILL OF RIGHTS AND LANDMARK CASES. 144 p. $12.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10790-6) Grades 6-12. Grade 9: CG 1, 11, 13, and 14. Grade 11: CG 17

In clear, objective prose suitable for all students, Lindop presents the Bill of Rights as flexible, living law which has been subject to change as our perception of individual rights has changed over the years. Beginning with the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the book traces why and how these amendments were added to the Constitution. Each amendment is considered individually with an explanation of its meaning and a look at Supreme Court decisions which have defined limits and freedoms associated with it. A special feature is Lindop's use of primary sources, often quoting from the cases and decisions themselves. For those students who constantly ask how subjects apply to them, a concluding chapter explains how the rights of young

people differ from the rights of adults. Good use of black-and-white photographs with descriptive captions depicts members of the Supreme Court and numerous people from documented cases, such as Linda Brown from Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka and Clarence Earl Gideon. Source notes, a reading list, and an index are valuable assets of this very informative and topical resource.

McCall, Edith. BIOGRAPHY OF A RIVER: THE LIVING MISSISSIPPI. 162 p. $17.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6915-2) Grades 7-12

The "living Mississippi" is an apt description of the great river depicted here in its ever-changing, restless life as a major feature of our national landscape and a vital means of human support and transport over the years. McCall's enthusiastic narrative reviews the history of human habitation along the Mississippi from prehistoric times to the present, the role of the river in exploration, settlement, wars, and commerce, and the effects on the river of people's use and abuse of it. The 19th-century heyday of Old Man River is vividly recaptured in the words of those who plied it, from Mark Twain, who sang its praises, to such fastidious critics as Mrs. Frances Trollope, who seems to have overlooked the Mississippi altogether, so preoccupied was she by the rustic manners of her fellow voyagers. This book is a vivid resource for students of the river who will find much to amplify American history/geography studies as well as American literature. No maps, alas, but vigorous prose. A full glossary and an index aid independent research.

Margolies, Barbara A. REHEMA'S JOURNEY: A VISIT IN TANZANIA. unp. $13.95. Scholastic Inc., 1990. (ISBN 0-590-42846-2) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 5, 6, and 18. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 18, and 19

Rehema's Journey chronicles the first trip away from home by a nine-year-old girl in Tanzania. Color photographs introduce Rehema, her family and home high in the Pare Mountains, and the cultural diversity she experiences on her journey to see the wildlife at Ngorongoro Crater. Told in first person, the text reflects the joy, excitement, and occasional homesickness this young girl feels during her trip as she accompanies her father, who is a guide for tourists to various game parks in Tanzania. Young readers and listeners can empathize with Rehema's experiences and appreciate the beautiful pictures of Arusha and Masai tribesmen, animals at the preserve, and the land itself. A colorful map on the title page locates various places along the route of her journey, and a concluding glossary of Swahili words contains phonetic pronunciations for language study. This lovely volume is a welcome addition to a library's collection on children and families around the world.

Meltzer, Milton. THE BILL OF RIGHTS: HOW WE GOT IT AND WHAT IT MEANS. 179 p. $14.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04807-6) Grades 9-12. Grade 9: CG 1 and 11-15. Grade 11: CG 4, 5, 6, and 17

In his Afterword, Meltzer defines the purpose of this scholarly work: Because liberty must never be taken for granted, the public must remain informed, and it takes an "alert public, a critical press, and concerted political action" to guarantee the freedoms outlined in The Bill of Rights. The first half of the book traces the history of the Constitution back to 1215 and the Magna Carta and then chronicles the struggle for American independence and the document's framing by our founding fathers. The second half looks at freedoms outlined in the first ten amendments as well as how those rights and liberties

have been contested during the 200 years since their adoption. Cases and quotations from judges and other experts document these chapters. Concluding material includes a time line from 1215 to 1868, a bibliography, general background on the chapters, and an index. There is no illustration of any sort, which could deter some average and below-average students. This title is recommended for students and teachers who wish to supplement an in-depth study of the Bill of Rights.

Miller, Christina G., and Louise A. Berry. COASTAL RESCUE: PRESERVING OUR SEASHORES. 120 p. $12.95. Atheneum, 1989. (ISBN 0-689-31288-1) Grades 6-9. Grade 8: CG 1 and 15

After a general introduction, which describes the variety of the U. S. coastline, this topical, informative volume offers an overview of coastal science and preservation and several examples of recent conservation efforts. Chapters concentrate on the beach "architects" (waves, winds, currents, and tides); beach erosion and erosion control; pollution of coastal waters, estuaries, and marshlands; plant and animal preservation (including the red wolf project on the Outer Banks); and coastal preservation projects. Terms are carefully defined, and processes are explained step by step. Although the prose is clear and attempts are made to engage the reader through occasional use of the pronoun "you," this text is more appropriate for reference and student reporting than as a tool to stimulate environmental activism. Black-and-white photographs are less than compelling; but a good glossary, list of twelve conservation agencies, reading list, and index are useful. Coastal Rescue could supplement an interdisciplinary unit on this "hot" issue for North Carolina middle school students and preface a field trip.

Miller, Margaret. WHO USES THIS? unp. $12.88. Greenwillow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-08279-3) Grades K-1. Grade K: CG 14. Grade 1: CG 16 and 19

Like its companion, Whose Hat?, this photographic concept book employs an interesting format to profile the tools of nine occupations in gorgeous color photographs and limited text printed in bold, black type. Each "chapter" is four pages, with page one always asking the question, "Who uses this?" Page two displays a picture of the tool with no caption. Page three is the photograph of an adult working with this tool, and page four depicts a child or children playing with it. The name of the occupation always appears on the children's page, and a final page displays and labels all nine tools. Because attention has been paid to avoiding gender or racial stereotypes in these attractive, energetic photographs, this inviting book is appropriate for teaching beginning readers and for supplementing class discussions about people's multiple roles in society and about the world of work.

Morimoto, Junko. MY HIROSHIMA. unp. $12.95. Viking, 1990. (ISBN 0-670-83181-6) Grades 3-6. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 14, and 15

There is a stark, austere beauty to Junko Morimoto's watercolor renderings of her youth in Hiroshima and the climactic moment--8:15 AM, August 6, 1945--when the atomic bomb destroyed forever existence as she had known it. A high school student at the time of the bombing, Junko Morimoto happened to be at home on August 6, thereby probably escaping certain death at her school where, six months later, she "found the bones of many of my friends" as well as an aluminum lunch box with burnt, black rice inside it. The story is a sequence of neat, finished vignettes in precise brush strokes until a full page suddenly appears, all in bluest blue with only a tiny image of an airplane far

up at the top. The explosion is registered in harsh, impressionistic browns, grays, and blacks. An aerial photograph of devastated Hiroshima and a color pnotograph of the author kneeling on "the clean white ground" where her school once stood conclude the story. Facts and statistics appear on a final page. Unsentimentally narrated, the horrific event is almost clinically described, its impact left for the illustrations to convey. This frank but unjudgmental treatment will drive home to students the horrors of war without exploiting their vulnerability.

Murphy, Jim. THE BOYS' WAR: CONFEDERATE AND UNION SOLDIERS TALK ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR. 110 p. $15.95. Clarion Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-89919-893-7) Grades 6-9. Grade 8: CG 9 and 10

Some of the many young boys who braved the suffering and exhaustion of the Civil War describe their experiences. Not so much a history of events as an account of soldiers' lives, the book discusses why and how boys enlisted in spite of age restrictions and their subsequent disillusionment with war in the face of risks and privations endured by soldiers and drummer boys alike: poor diet, hunger, inadequate shelter, and the daily threat of death or injury. Also considered are the bonds created among strangers in wartime, the personal experience of battle, and the changes wrought by war in the boys' psyches. The horrors of prison camps, the prevalence of disease, and the dread of the surgeon's saw are other terrors made immediate and real by the words of the boy soldiers and drummers themselves. A Confederate boy's touching account of his reunion with his parents after a long and dangerous journey home rounds out this moving book. Generously illustrated with excellent, sepia-toned period photographs, the book also contains a bibliography and an index. A fine resource for bringing history off the printed page and into minds and hearts.

Perl, Lila. FROM TOP HATS TO BASEBALL CAPS, FROM BUSTLES TO BLUE JEANS: WHY WE DRESS THE WAY WE DO. 118 p. $14.95. Clarion Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-89919-872-4) Grades 6-12

Historical fact and anecdote combine to trace a history of fashion and to document the impact made by young people, world events, and individual style. Perl begins by discussing the language of clothes, noting influences such as World War II and the youth revolution of the 1960s on today's dress. Readers discover that people clothed themselves first for decoration, then for warmth and modesty. Four chapters look specifically at pants, skirts, shoes, and hats. Black-and-white photographs and line drawings of period fashions illustrate the conversational prose, and a bibliography and index conclude the material. This high-interest text provides much material to spark student interest and to supplement discussions and reports on the relationship between history and dress.

Pringle, Laurence. NUCLEAR ENERGY: TROUBLED PAST, UNCERTAIN FUTURE. 124 p. $13.95. Macmillan, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-775391-3) Grades 8-12. Grade 9: CG 1 and 5. Grade 11: CG 17 and 18

In this new edition of his 1979 volume, Pringle presents a well-written and balanced survey of nuclear power. Chapters focus on nuclear physics, reactor safety and the Browns Ferry incident, Three Mile Island and the mishaps and regulatory developments afterward, Chernobyl, fuel cycle hazards and disposal of nuclear waste, and the future of nuclear power. Very much updated, this second edition contains only about 20% of the contents found in the first one.

Because of the technical nature of some chapters, the reading level is somewhat sophisticated, yet accessible to the average reader. Well-chosen black-and-white photographs and several explanatory diagrams provide illustration, and a source list and index conclude the text. Recommended for independent reading and research, group activities, and classroom reference.

Provensen, Alice. THE BUCK STOPS HERE: THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. unp. $17.89. Harper, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-024787-8) Grades 2-6. Grade 2: CG 17. Grade 3: CG 17

In a creative, attractive format, author/illustrator Alice Provensen packs a wealth of information to educate young readers about the men who have held our nation's highest office. The terms of the forty-one U. S. presidents from Washington to Bush are pictorialized in detailed, earth-toned watercolors. Portraits of each man and sometimes his family are surrounded on the page by an array of vignettes, mini-scenes, slogans, facts, and campaign memorabilia. Important events are noted in words and pictures, such as the opening of the Erie Canal during John Quincy Adams' term and the Wright Brothers' flight under Theodore Roosevelt. A charming and intelligent feature is the use of rhyming couplets at the bottom of each page to aid students as they learn the sequence of the presidents. For example, "Remember Adams, number Two? / Well, Six is Adams' son, John Q." This fine volume concludes with notes on the presidents and a selected bibliography, which add still more material for discussion and student reporting.

Randolph, Sallie G., and Nancy O'Keefe Bolick. SHAKER INVENTIONS. 96 p. $13.85. Walker & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8027-6934-9) Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 3

Informative and well written, Shaker Inventions describes the history, religion, and daily life of the Shaker sect and documents many "important tools, gadgets, machines, and labor-saving systems" that were "invented, designed, and improved" by its members. An introductory map locates the twenty-four Shaker communities that have been settled in the United States since founder Mother Ann Lee sought religious freedom in 1774. The content explores the group's beliefs about community, equality yet separation of the sexes, self-sufficiency and isolation from outside influences, and the relationship between everyday work and Shaker inventions. Readers will be impressed by the diversity of the innovations credited to this remarkable group, which range from the sulphur match to the first commercial washing machine. Although there is an index, a bibliography would have been very helpful. Simple, black-and-white drawings are fitting illustrations. This detailed reference would be useful for student reports on Colonial America.

Rappaport, Doreen, ed. AMERICAN WOMEN: THEIR LIVES IN THEIR WORDS. 318 p. $16.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04817-3) Grades 7-12

A documentary history of the United States shows how women's lives have influenced and shaped the American experience. Each of the book's nine sections begins with historical background and weaves together personal stories with Rappaport's own informative, clarifying narrative. Remarkable women familiar to many--Anne Bradstreet, Anne Hutchinson, Sojourner Truth, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Addams, and Margaret Sanger--speak and share the stage with equally remarkable unknowns, such as seventeen-year-old Eliza Lucas, who ran three plantations for her soldier father, and Fannie, a slave who never bent to her master's will. Pioneer women and factory workers

express their views. Black-and-white photographs and illustrations supplement the text. A lengthy bibliography and an index are research aids. Although researchers will find this book a valuable starting place, history lovers may find it a joy to read simply because it succeeds where so many history books fail in presenting well-told stories from a fresh perspective.

Rau, Margaret. YOUNG WOMEN IN CHINA. 160 p. $16.95. Enslow Pubs., 1989. (ISBN 0-89490-241-5) Grades 6-12. Grade 7: CG 3, 5, 18, 19, 21, and 23. Grade 10: CG 3 and 5

Born and raised in China and a regular visitor there, Margaret Rau introduces readers to eleven young women who live halfway round the world. As several are teenagers, the parallels drawn to their American counterparts make the lives and dreams of this group both poignant and relevant. From married peasant girl to single college student, these individuals are described in fascinating detail and clear, upbeat prose. Woven throughout the profiles is China's history since 1910 as well as its current educational, political, and economic realities. Students gain understanding of the struggle between ancient tradition and movement for change as it affects these young women. Black-and-white photographs taken by the author give the text a family album feel, augmenting reader empathy. A two-page map, pronunciation guide, and subject index are helpful. Appropriate for independent reading and browsing, research, and group activities.

Ray, Delia. GOLD! THE KLONDIKE ADVENTURE. 90 p. Lodestar Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-67288-5) Grades 6-12. Grade 11: CG 12

The human drama of the Klondike gold rush (1896-1898) is the core of this compelling history. With fascinating details and photographs, Delia Ray recounts the discovery of gold in northwestern Canada in 1896 and the subsequent frenzy of the 40,000 "stampeders." The chronicles of human hope and despair are universal in their impact, and just the harrowing tales of the Klondikers' journeys are worth the cost of the book. This is an excellent study of human folly--one written with compassion rather than cynicism. Fifty large, well-captioned archival photographs in black and white expand the book's appeal. A good glossary and index extend research possibilities. This title would make a strong read-aloud (even in high school) as well as a source for vignettes in drama or topics for creative writing classes.

Rollo, Vera. THE AMERICAN FLAG. 78 p. $15.95. $5.95 paper. MD Hist. Pr., 1989. (ISBN 0-917882-28-8) Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 16. Grade 3: CG 16

The story of the flag in eleven short chapters and numerous illustrations will be a useful research source for younger students learning about one of America's most important symbols. Vera Rollo defines flags, summarizes flag history, gives background on English flags in America, and traces the evolution of the current American flag. In a nice touch, a North American Indian pole with feathers and other decoration is depicted and its service as a flag mentioned. Flag stories and flag etiquette are topics as well as a closing piece entitled "I Am Your Flag," invoking a personal response to this stirring emblem. A thorough glossary of flag terms is followed by a bibliography and an index. Various diagrams and excellent black-and-white drawings touched with bright red and blue illustrate. A few photographs, quite dim, are the book's only weak point. Small and shaped rectangularly (like a miniature flag), this little book will be a popular, well-used resource.

Rosen, Mike. AUTUMN FESTIVALS. (Seasonal Festivals Series) 32 p. $11.90. Bookwright Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-18352-1) Grades 1-3. Grade 1: CG 13. Grade 2: CG 16. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 18, and 19

Full-color photographs complement this simple introduction to different festivals worldwide that are associated with autumn, the autumn equinox, harvest gathering, and the onset of winter. These include Rosh Hashanah, Diwali, the Festival of Kali, Thanksgiving, Guy Fawkes Night, and Halloween, among others. Their origins in ancient cultural and religious rites are well explained, such as the autumn bonfires adapted to Britain's November 5 remembrance of Guy Fawkes' attempt to blow up Parliament and the church's evening of All Hallows and its All Saints' Day observances aimed at discouraging pagan rites associated with the autumn equinox. Young readers and listeners (this book will have to be read aloud to beginners) will see cultural connections among all peoples in the universal human tendency to give thanks for food and crops, to honor the dead, and to equate human welfare with the ritual return of the seasons. A glossary and index are useful. A bibliography offers further titles (all by the same publisher).

Special Publications Division. THE EMERALD REALM: EARTH'S PRECIOUS RAIN FORESTS. 200 p. $12.95. Natl. Geog., 1990. (ISBN 0-87044-795-5) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 1, 9, and 12

Similar in format to its magazine, National Geographic Society's lovely book profiles major tropical rain forests in Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and West Africa. The five chapters by different authors occasionally overlap information as they educate readers about destruction of these habitats, plant and wildlife living there, their value as commercial resources, indigenous natives, and conservation efforts. More than 130 marvelous color photographs dominate the text, and teachers are cautioned that natives are depicted in their natural dress, which for many is undress. The fact-filled prose is most appropriate for advanced readers, but all students will be attracted by the pictures. An introductory map locates the dwindling forests, and an index concludes this timely book, which makes the point that we know more about the surface of the moon than about the contents of a tropical rain forest.

Strom, Yale. A TREE STILL STANDS: JEWISH YOUTH IN EASTERN EUROPE TODAY. 111 p. $16.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22154-9) Grades 3-12. Grade 3: CG 11, 12, and 15. Grade 6: CG 4, 6, and 18-21. Grade 10: CG 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11

Strom's black-and-white photographs add poignance to this collection of interviews with Jewish children aged seven to twenty who are descendants of Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe. Distilled from taped dialogues with youth from seven countries, ranging from East Germany to Hungary, the translated text reflects thoughts on contemporary issues, such as anti-Semitism and the Berlin Wall's crumbling, as well as family history and personal dreams. Suitable for independent study and reading aloud, this book literally speaks to students in all grades and at all levels about the past, present, and future of a resilient people.

Sullivan, George. HOW THE WHITE HOUSE REALLY WORKS. 117 p. $15.95. Lodestar Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-525-67266-4) Grades 6-12

A delightful inside look at the White House examines what goes on behind the scenes from the perspective of the White House staff. Filled with interesting facts, the book explains who answers the thousands of letters received each day by the President, who plans menus and serves banquets for visiting dignitaries, and who operates the White House switchboard and how. Readers learn that Richard Nixon enjoyed bowling in the presidential bowling alley, Franklin Roosevelt took a daily swim in the White House pool, and Harry Truman favored a game of horseshoes. Other chapters explain the role of the Secret Service and the functions of the Executive Staff. A human-interest book that personalizes American governement, this one is an excellent read for groups planning a visit to the White House. Black-and-white photographs, index.

Swanson, June. I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE. Illustrated by Rick Hanson. 40 p. $9.95. Carolrhoda Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-87614-393-1) Grades K-3. Grade 2: CG 16. Grade 3: CG 16

In honor of its 100th anniversary, the Pledge of Allegiance is the subject of this lovely book which traces its history, defines difficult words like "republic" and "indivisible" (which appear in bold print to emphasize them), and documents important events taking place at various stages of the sentence's evolution. Students should be especially interested in the role children played in the pledge's origin. In 1880 a weekly magazine called The Youth's Companion published adventures as well as ideas for projects, one of which was to collect pennies to buy flags for schools. Francis Bellamy, writer for the magazine, is credited with the idea for a school celebration in connection with the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing and with authoring a pledge to the new flags on that day. A simply written, useful text.

Terkel, Susan Neiburg. SHOULD DRUGS BE LEGALIZED? 159 p. $13.90. Watts, 1990. (ISBN 0-531-10944-5) Grades 7-12. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 9: CG 1 and 10-15. Grade 11: CG 17

Susan Neiburg Terkel strives conscientiously to be fair to both sides in this excellent query into the pros and cons of legalizing such illegal drugs as marijuana, cocaine, and heroin. Terkel stresses the objective decision-making needed on this emotionally charged issue, arguing that concepts like "right" and "wrong" are not applicable. She presents convincing evidence for legalization through her examples of Dutch and British programs of drug law reform. But she also warns that legalization does not guarantee a reduction of new addicts, sufficient funds for treatment, effective treatment, or voluntary participation by addicts. This text is well researched and well documented, overviewing drug use and regulation in the nation from mid-19th century to the present and examining the consequences of legalization for criminal traffickers, the criminal justice system, our foreign policy, and the life of everyday citizens. Especially impressive are many direct quotations and detailed points of view from experts and thinkers on both sides of the problem. A fine bibliography, an index, a glossary, and endnotes expand this valuable document's usefulness.

Tessendorf, K. C. ALONG THE ROAD TO SOWETO: A RACIAL HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA. 194 p. $14.95. Atheneum, 1989. (ISBN 0-689-31401-9) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 3, 9, and 10

Geared to advanced students and adults, this intellectual volume seeks to determine the causes of contemporary problems in South Africa by analyzing historical, economic, and social factors. Beginning with the 10th and 11th centuries, chapters document primarily military history, including the British and Dutch hostilities from the 1600s to the Boer War of 1899-1902, and trace their commercial competition as well as joint subjugation of the black population. Twentieth-century developments like apartheid and the student uprising in Soweto are covered in the final twenty-four pages. However, events such as the release of Nelson Mandela and economic sanctions are too recent to have been included. In its favor, this book is a disturbing account of European imperialism and provides valuable background for understanding the current situation in South Africa. Black-and-white photographs and line drawings are interspersed throughout as are sketches of colorful personalities, like Shaka and Paul Kruger. The list of sources, the reading list, and pronoun-noun index are helpful.

Turnbull, Steven. SAMURAI WARLORDS: THE BOOK OF THE DAIMYO. 174 p. $24.95. Blandford Pr., 1989. (ISBN 0-7137-2003-4) (Available from Sterling) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 5, 6, and 7

"Everything you ever wanted to know about Samurai--and more" is a fair description of this lavishly written and illustrated British import about the famous Japanese military elite. Students who want this information will love it despite its high vocabulary level, small print, and encyclopedic prose. Large, full-color photographs abound, nine of them dramatic, two-page color plates showing samurai in action especially created for this volume by artist James Field. Rather than a chronological history, chapters describe the roles of "daimyo"--soldier elite--as warriors, strategists, dynasty creators, judges, "role models," and cultural devotees (to use Western terms). The goal of an honorable death (including ritual suicide) and the duty of avenging a daimyo's death are highlighted in two chapters. The very high reading and vocabulary levels restrict this book's use to good readers. Preview before purchase: Ritual violence is part of man's history, yet one may want to preview a book on the topic. Also, there is a short section on the accepted homosexual activity of samurai. This title is appropriate for advanced students, independent research, and browsing by those interested in or studying Japanese history and culture.

Weatherford, Doris. AMERICAN WOMEN AND WORLD WAR II. (History of Women in America Series) 338 p. $29.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2038-8) Grades 9-12. Grade 11: CG 15, 16, and 17

Detailed and comprehensive, Weatherford's text describes the diverse roles American women assumed during World War II at home and abroad. The book's organization into four sections and an "afterward" identifies these roles as nurse, military woman, industry employee, and volunteer housewife and mother. Primary sources of the time, such as news reports, magazine articles, and personal diaries, document war's "liberating effect" on women. Source notes conclude each chapter, and quotations range from Abigail Adams' letters to Ladies' Home Journal articles. Eighty black-and-white photographs are divided among the sections and depict women at work. An interesting bibliographical note and thorough index are concluding reference material. A brief

introduction and the Afterward offer observations and conclusions on women's gains and losses in postwar American economy, politics, rights, family definition, and peace. Student discussion and reporting will be enhanced by this volume's in-depth documentation of society's willingness "to allow--even encourage--women in wartime to do things that are closed to them in peace."

Wurmfeld, Hope Herman. TRUCKER. unp. $14.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-793581-7) Grades 2-4. Grade 2: CG 6 and 20-23. Grade 3: CG 20-24

A black-and-white photo essay, Trucker describes the work, the cargo, the route, and the day-to-day life of long-distance driver Phil Marcum. A small businessman who owns his own rig, Phil "hauls lumber, steel, or produce on a north-south route from Canada to Florida and sometimes drives almost three thousand miles a week before going home for the weekend." Pictures show him loading melons and going through inspection at a weigh station as well as relaxing at home and speaking to his daughter's classmates about how trucks transport food, clothing, and other goods they need. The conversational text contains language of the occupation, such as "deadheading" and "cab-over," and the striking, exceptional photographs illustrate both the man at work and the world he sees from the driver's seat. Appropriate for read-aloud and student reporting, this high-interest book would be a good supplement to introduce economic concepts and to teach maps.

Yost, Graham. THE KGB: THE RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE FROM THE DAYS OF THE CZARS TO THE PRESENT. (World Espionage Series) 152 p. $16.95. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-1940-1) Grades 7-12. Grade 10: CG 2. Grade 11: CG 16

The Berlin Wall has tumbled and with it much of the mystique surrounding the KGB and the spy games of Cold War days. What the future holds for this once powerful Russian organization and enforcer remains to be seen. But Graham Yost's book provides fascinating tales of secret police and spy intrigue, all filled with revolutionaries, traitors, assassination attempts, and provocateur operations. Following the beginnings of the secret police under Czar Alexander II, then known as Ochrana, to its entrenchment under Lenin as Cheka, to its modern status as the KGB, the author traces the evolution of political thought and the communist structure of the Soviet Union. The KGB's internal activities--legal and illegal--and its roles ranging from recruiting non-Soviets who would work for the organization to restraining anti-Soviet activity are topics explored. A suggested reading list, glossary, and index make this a good research source--it is also readable, straightforward, and not without its moments of dry humor. A few black-and-white photographs illustrate. Probably best suited for Cold War units, the book also offers parallel reading for those exploring recent examples of blatant treason-for-money involving whole families in some instances.

Young, Donald, with Cynthia Overbeck Bix. THE SIERRA CLUB BOOK OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS. 64 p. $14.95. Sierra Club Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-316-97744-6) (Available from Little) Grades 4-6. Grade 4: CG 1, 2, 5, and 16. Grade 5: CG 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, 19, and 22

An informative overview, this attractive volume traces the history of the United States National Park System, describes its current diverse components, documents contributions made by individuals and groups to the conservation movement, details recreational activities, and identifies current and future threats to nature's ecosystems. In addition to recognizing efforts made by

specific people, like John Wesley Powell and Theodore Roosevelt, and by groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, the text allots much space to one man in particular--John Muir, who, coincidentally, founded the Sierra Club in 1892. A lesson in geography as well as history, Our National Parks contains gorgeous color photographs of representative scenery from several of the 350 national sites and black-and-white period shots. Concluding chapters invite visitors with descriptions of expected and unexpected park activities, ranging from camping to snowshoeing, and encourage diligence to protect these treasures from threats such as pollution and heavy development. A final map locates the fifty national parks, and a list of their area, features, and activities follows. It is a fine reference suitable for student browsing and reports.

Books in a Series

ARMED FORCES SERIES. 3 titles each $14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. Grades 5-9. Grade 5: CG 6, 18, 19, 22, and 23
THE U.S. AIR FORCE. 72 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1433-8)
THE U.S. ARMY. 88 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1434-6)
THE U.S. NAVY. 88 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1435-4)

Books in this timely, informative, introductory series profile branches of United States' armed services, detailing history, enlistment procedures, educational opportunities, organizational structure, and day-to-day life. Each volume traces the evolution and development of its subject, including people, events, technology, and responsibilities during peace and war. Straightforward prose explains enlistment procedures and life as a recruit during basic training. Chapters also include descriptions of the benefits of higher education as offered by the Air Force Academy, West Point, or Annapolis and an outline of army, navy, or air force organization. Of note is documentation, though brief, of women's participation in the military. Black-and-white and color photographs illustrate each text. A concluding appendix contains lists of insignias, ranks, equipment, and an index. In light of current events in the Persian Gulf, students of United States and North Carolina history will be especially interested in up-to-date information on weapons, such as the Patriot missile system and stealth bomber. However, these books present serving in the military as a job like any other, with benefits and opportunities. Teachers will need to add the downside.

Bernstein, Richard B., and Jerome Agel. INTO THE THIRD CENTURY. 3 titles each $13.85. Walker & Co., 1989. Grades 8-12. Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 9: CG 1-15. Grade 11: CG 5, 12, 17, and 18
THE CONGRESS. 128 p. (ISBN 0-8027-6833-4)
THE PRESIDENCY. 142 p. (ISBN 0-8027-6831-8)
THE SUPREME COURT. 97 p. (ISBN 0-8027-6835-0)

Jointly authored by a Constitutional scholar and a writer of popular history, this series covers the history of the three branches of our government from the early republic to the present. Each volume begins with a thorough chapter on the branch's creation in the 1780s, and each highlights main events and persons rather than chronicling every leader, session, etc., tediously. The last quarter of each volume covers the years since 1950. Of special note is the authors' effort to show the intermingling of law, party politics, national events, and personalities in the history of each branch. Terms are defined as they arise in context, often more clearly than in textbooks. The expository

style is never pedantic, but the high vocabulary level and complex nature of governmental history restrict this series to able, sophisticated secondary readers only. Each volume has six, small, black-and-white photographs, no charts, dependable reading lists, and fair indexes (mostly proper nouns). The series will serve advanced students, independent research, and as an excellent teacher reference.

CHILDREN OF THE WORLD SERIES. 10 titles each 64 p. each $12.95. Gareth Stevens, 1989, 1990. Grades 2-5. Grade 2: CG 5. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 18, and 20. Grade 5: CG 1-3, 9-12, and 17

COSTA RICA (ISBN 0-8368-0222-5); EL SALVADOR (ISBN 0-8368-0220-9); ENGLAND (ISBN 1-55532-211-5); FRANCE (ISBN 1-55532-212-3); GUATEMALA (ISBN 0-8368-0120-2); JAPAN (ISBN 0-8368-0121-0); NICARAGUA (ISBN 0-8368-0221-7); TANZANIA (ISBN 1-55532-210-7); TURKEY (ISBN 1-55532-851-2); USSR (ISBN 1-55532-215-8)

Attractive and well written, titles in this informative series profile the daily life of one child, aged ten to twelve, and the country in which he or she lives. Beautiful color photographs and straightforward text describe each child's family, home, neighborhood, school, meals, chores, play--things children would naturally want to know about each other. General information about his country follows this portrait and includes overviews of history, geography, government, and so forth. Of special interest are suggestions for research projects and for individual and group activities, including the addresses of two organizations which locate pen pals around the world. A brief glossary of useful words has phonetic pronunciations. A short bibliography and an index conclude the text. Inviting and carefully organized, books in this series provide solid material to introduce students to their contemporaries in other lands.

Climo, Shirley. CITY! 2 titles each 60 p. each $15.95. Macmillan, 1990. Grades 3-5. Grade 5: CG 9, 16, 20, 21, and 23.

CITY! NEW YORK. (ISBN 0-02-719020-X)
CITY! SAN FRANCISCO. (ISBN 0-02-719030-7)

In what appears to be the beginning of a series on major U. S. cities, Shirley Climo has chosen to describe the two gateways used by immigrants to this country, New York and San Francisco. Similar in format, the books could be used together to compare and contrast cultural influences relating to the settlement of the East and West Coasts. A colorful map of the region around the city opens each book, and a street map closes it before a final index. Written in simple, often enthusiastic prose, intervening chapters contain general information on the geography and climate, a history from settlement to the city as it is today, a sightseeing guide for future tourists, and a final chapter listing "A Pocketful of Facts" about the state itself. George Ancona's picture-postcard color photographs often feature children exploring each city, and vocabulary unique to each area can be found defined throughout. Classes planning a similar project to learn about their city or town can use these as examples.

EASY MENU ETHNIC COOKBOOKS. 2 titles each 47 p. each $9.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. Grades 5-12. Grade 6: CG 1-3 and 11-13. Grade 7: CG 1-3 and 10-12. Grade 10: CG 1, 5, and 6
COOKING THE AUSTRALIAN WAY. (ISBN 0-8225-0923-7)
COOKING THE AUSTRIAN WAY. (ISBN 0-8225-0924-5)

Along with traditional foods and a sampling of step-by-step recipes from differents parts of each country, titles in this concise series introduce history, geography, and culture. Content begins with a colorful map noting topography, locating agricultural products and several important cities, and depicting the country's flag. A "Before You Begin" glossary defines cooking terms, identifies utensils, and describes special ingredients the text and recipes will use. A menu for each country outlines a day of meals, which organizes the recipes and highlights cultural specialties, such as Australian tea and Austrian desserts. Of special interest is the inclusion in the menu of a phonetic pronunciation guide (in the Austrian cookbook) and a translation of Australian food terms to American counterparts. (Australian "potato chips" are American "french fries.") Color photographs and black-and-white drawings illustrate procedures and completed dishes. Concluding material lists safety and sanitary precautions, a metric conversion chart, and an index. This series provides not only a creative way to begin studying other cultures but also ideas for student presentations and international food fairs.

Evans, J. Edward. AMERICAN POLITICS SERIES. 2 titles each $9.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 4 and 5. Grade 8: CG 5
FREEDOM OF RELIGION. 88 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1754-X)
FREEDOM OF SPEECH. 72 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1753-1)

Continuing discussion of First Amendment freedoms he began in Freedom of the Press, author J. Edward Evans chronicles the history and tradition of religious tolerance and free speech in the United States. Historical events and court cases document his explanation of these concepts. A large portion of text is devoted to Supreme Court decisions, which defined and limited an individual's rights "under the law" through landmark opinions on such issues as the "preferred position" of First Amendment rights over others and school prayer. Where important, Evans includes both majority and dissenting opinions. Of special interest is a section in each volume entitled "You Make the Decision," which presents students with the facts of an actual court case to judge, then explains the court's decision. Freedom of Speech features a section outlining what individuals can and cannot do under this right and an appendix containing the text of the Bill of Rights. Both titles include a bibliography for further reading, a list of important words and the pages on which they are defined, and an index for easy reference. Considering current interest in the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights, these books provide a timely and concise introduction.

EYEWITNESS BOOKS. 2 titles each 64 p. each $14.99. Knopf, 1990. Grades 5-8. Grade 6: CG 18, 19, 20, and 21. Grade 7: CG 20, 21, 22, and 23
ANCIENT EGYPT. (ISBN 0-679-90742-4)
ANCIENT ROME. (ISBN 0-679-90741-6)

This set of reference books--oversized, lavishly and colorfully illustrated, minimally expository--will entice nonreaders and weak readers to browse through its profuse photographs of artifacts preserved from ancient Egyptian and Roman civilizations. Hair combs, sandals, kitchen pans, perfume bottles, toy dolls, tweezers, bracelets, needles, vases, glorious portraits, as well as

the usual array of mummies, Roman weaponry, and dazzling gold and silver jewelry and objets d'art accumulated by pharoahs and wealthy Roman matrons, all of these provide a feast for the eyes. The strongest point of the set is this pictorial focus on the individual effects of long dead human beings whose humanity is at once evoked by such concrete testimony that they lived, loved, fought, primped, ate, made merry, suffered, and died. The copiously captioned photographs offer as much information as the slim textual narrative. These books are excellent supplements to more solid, academic histories of ancient Egypt and Rome.

EXPLORING THE PAST. 2 titles each 64 p. each $13.95. Harcourt, 1989. Grades 8-12

ANCIENT EGYPT. (ISBN 0-15-200449-1)
THE MIDDLE AGES. (ISBN 0-15-200451-3)

Two oversized, lavishly illustrated books divide into sections encompassing arts and learning, religion, the life of the nobility, the life of the worker, and, more specifically, such areas as Egyptian mummification and explorations and inventions during the Middle Ages. Full-color, two-page spreads in the style of Egyptian art or of medieval illuminations begin each section. Throughout both books, illustrations are inviting and often whimsical, complementing the text and enhancing readability as they reflect the energy and excitement of the Egyptian empire and the period once known as the Dark Ages. Both titles are fine overviews of daily life respectively. Those who love visual learning will be quite rapt as will any researchers of the Crusades, medieval life, or Egyptian tombs, as well as those just avid for the depiction of humanity so abundantly alive so long ago.

FIRST BOOKS SERIES. 7 titles each 64 p. each $11.90. Watts, 1989. Grades 3-5. Grade 3: CG 14, 15, 16, and 17. Grade 5: CG 18, 20, 21, 22, and 23

FOUNDING THE AMERICAN COLONIES. (ISBN 0-531-10686-1)
EARLY IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES. (ISBN 0-531-10744-2)
GROWING UP IN THE OLD WEST. (ISBN 0-531-10746-9)
WOMEN OF THE OLD WEST. (ISBN 0-531-10756-6)
THE RAILROADS: OPENING THE WEST. (ISBN 0-531-10682-9)
THE PONY EXPRESS: HOOFBEATS IN THE WILDERNESS. (ISBN 0-531-10751-5)
THE TRAGEDY OF LITTLE BIGHORN. (ISBN 0-531-10685-3)

This excellent series offers interesting, well-illustrated "first books" on important events in American history for upper elementary and middle school readers. (Few students will notice the words "First Book" appearing in small print at the bottom of each title page.) Each volume provides more than the usual rehash of facts; e.g., the Bighorn title includes data and photographs from recent excavations at the battle site, and the book on women of the Old West quotes extensively from Tenting on the Plains, the vivid book of her life as a military wife by Elizabeth Custer, wife of General Custer. Numerous archival photographs, drawings, and posters are exceptionally well reproduced and captioned. Many are hand-colored for this series. The text is printed in large type, and excellent maps supplement the regions and events described. Each title is indexed. Because of its high visual appeal and solid, interesting substance, this series is fine high-interest/low-vocabulary content for Grades 6-8.

Franck, Irene M., and David M. Brownstone. TRADE AND TRAVEL ROUTE. 4 titles each $17.95. Facts on File, 1990. Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 1 and 2. Grade 10: CG 2

AROUND AFRICA AND ASIA BY SEA. 114 p. (ISBN 0-8160-1875-8)
THE EUROPEAN OVERLAND ROUTES. 140 p. (ISBN 0-8160-1877-4)
FROM GIBRALTAR TO THE GANGES. 120 p. (ISBN 0-8160-1876-6)
THE NORTHERN WORLD. 118 p. (ISBN 0-8160-1879-0)

The historical significance of trade routes on civilizations, on the rise and fall of empires, and on the spread of the world's populations occupies these titles, all of which are shortened, simplified versions of Franck and Brownstone's To the Ends of the Earth, a scholarly series of articles also published by Facts on File. The scholarly voice lingers in the dry, detached narrative which, while presenting the information thoroughly and accurately, remains cool and uninvolved despite the often dramatic events being related. But the series offers information not otherwise available in a source accessible to secondary history and geography students who might enjoy this unique "route" to grasping the upheavals of human history. Many black-and-white photographs and reproduced archival prints and paintings as well as drawings and maps greatly extend the book's appeal. Every chapter concludes with additional reference information. A comprehensive index concludes each text. An enormous quantity of world history in these titles, all of it accessible, entitles this series to a place in social studies reference collections.

IN AMERICA SERIES. Rev. ed. 5 titles each 72-95 p. each $9.95. Lerner Pubns., 1989-1991. Grades 5-12. Grade 5: CG 16-23. Grade 11: CG 2 and 17

THE FRENCH IN AMERICA. (ISBN 0-8225-0204-6)
THE GREEKS IN AMERICA. (ISBN 0-8225-0215-1)
THE MEXICANS IN AMERICA. (ISBN 0-8225-0222-4)
THE PUERTO RICANS IN AMERICA. (ISBN 0-8225-0238-0)
THE SCOTS AND SCOTCH-IRISH IN AMERICA. (ISBN 0-8225-0242-9)

These five additions to the In America Series continue a thoughtful, very informative consideration of American immigrants. Easy-to-read text in a two-column format traces first the history of each country, its relationship with the United States, the migration of its citizens, and the problems they faced in their adopted country. It is fascinating to see the blending of cultures, and each book concludes with a special chapter detailing the contributions immigrants from these countries have made to American life in the fields of government, community service, business, literature and arts, sports, and entertainment. Black-and-white photographs, maps, and charts illustrate the text, and a concluding index makes points of interest easy to locate. Recommended for student reports and class discussion of multicultural themes and various influences on U. S. history.

INCREDIBLE HISTORIES. 8 titles each 48 p. $87.60. each $10.95. Crestwood Hse., 1990. Grades 3-5

CREEPY CASTLES. (ISBN 0-89686-505-3)
DOOMED EXPEDITIONS. (ISBN 0-89686-506-1)
FAMOUS HOAXES. (ISBN 0-89686-507-X)
HAUNTED HOUSES. (ISBN 0-89686-508-8)
IMPOSSIBLE QUESTS. (ISBN 0-89686-509-6)
MISSING TREASURE. (ISBN 0-89686-510-X)
THE PHAROAHS' CURSE. (ISBN 0-89686-511-8)
SUPERSTITIONS. (ISBN 0-89689-512-6)

Eight titles of high-interest content will keep students of world history, folklore, quests, and the supernatural engaged as they discover the terrible curse of the pharoahs, the reports of numerous lodgers in the Lincoln Room of encounters with Abraham Lincoln's restless ghost, and the reason the number thirteen brings bad luck. Such interesting tidbits of history and lore are a few of the numerous frightening or inexplicable examples of human behavior and experiences from a wide variety of cultures encompassed in this lively series. The authors offer sound explanations for many apparent phenomena without being spoilsports out to debunk entirely the thrilling bit of the unknown or supernatural clinging to these historic teasers. So students get the best of it both ways--the scientific and the imaginative explanations. Black-and-white drawings are frequent within texts, and book jackets offer eye-catching, colorful previews of content. Vocabulary and syntax are not formulaic--in fact, challenging. But the high-interest appeal of the stories will sustain poorer readers as well as intrigue strong ones. A bibliography and an index in each volume enable the series to serve as reference materials as well.

INDEPENDENT READERS SERIES. 4 titles each 64 p. each $10.95. Zaner-Bloser, 1990. Grades 4-6. Grade 5: CG 5-8, 12, 18, 22, and 23

CHAMPIONS OF FREEDOM AND OTHER STORIES OF OUR PRESIDENTS. (ISBN 0-88309-543-2)
I'M A RANGER IN YELLOWSTONE AND OTHER STORIES FROM THE WORLD OF WORK. (ISBN 0-88309-544-0)
LIGHTING THE LAMP OF LIBERTY AND OTHER STORIES OF AMERICAN WOMEN. (ISBN 0-88309-541-6)
PIONEERS IN WONDERLAND AND OTHER TALES OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER. (ISBN 0-88309-542-4)

In a unique format, titles in this series organize mini-biographies and other narratives according to a selected theme and place various marginal helps on every page to aid independent study. Introductory pages illustrate how to use the book and explain the function of each marginal note. Passages designated for before, during, and after reading check students' understanding with questions which are answered at the back of the volume and suggest related projects. "Fast Facts" provides amusing asides. For example, students learn that Andrew Jackson was not only the first president born in a log cabin but also the first to ride a train. "Word Watchers" contains information about writing and grammar. "Information Station" is a mini-bibliography. First- and third-person narratives comprise the text, and challenging words appear in bold type. A concluding glossary defines this vocabulary and contains phonetic pronunciation. The various contributors keep stories brief and prose clear, including interesting quotations where appropriate. Especially suitable for AG resource classes, this series is also good for advanced students in heterogeneous groups.

ISSUES IN FOCUS SERIES. 3 titles each 128 p. each $17.95. Enslow Pubs., 1990, 1991. Grades 6-12. Grade 9: CG 1, 2, and 14. Grade 11: CG 17 and 18
Gay, Kathlyn. ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE. (ISBN 0-89490-239-3)
Kettlekamp, Larry. HIGH TECH FOR THE HANDICAPPED: NEW WAYS TO HEAR, SEE, TALK, AND WALK. (ISBN 0-89490-202-4)
Weiss, Ann E. WELFARE: HELPING HAND OR TRAP? (ISBN 0-89490-169-9)

This series employs the talents of Kathlyn Gay, Larry Kettelkamp, and Ann Weiss to blend the facts of their research on these issues with numerous interviews and anecdotes. Resulting texts are conversational as well as informative. Gay's book Adoption and Foster Care defines these terms and describes differences between them. An advocate for the protection and nurture of our nation's young people as well as the support and preservation of families, she documents the histories and process of each system and identifies special problems, such as the long wait, special-needs children, and mixed families. Kettelkamp's High Tech for the Handicapped is an up-to-date look at the technological advances in aids for the physically challenged. Multiple applications for computers and electronics in the development of helpful devices for movement and communication are presented in fascinating detail. In her book Welfare, Weiss reviews the history of a system that dates back to the Roman civilization, details various programs, such as minimum wage and workfare, summarizes critics' and supporters' positions in the ongoing debate, and documents current attempts at reform. Each volume concludes with a reading list and index. Gay's book includes addresses of helpful organizations. However, the adequate use of illustration to engage young readers is not uniform in this series. Although Kettelkamp's book contains many good black-and-white photographs and diagrams, Gay's has very few, and they are poor in quality. Weiss's book has no illustrations at all. Whereas average and below-average readers will be drawn to Kettelkamp's book, expecially with its cover photograph of Stevie Wonder, they will be turned off by the other two volumes, which contain much important and beneficial information. Despite these inconsistencies, these titles provide good reference material.

James, Ian. INSIDE . . . SERIES. 6 titles each 32 p. each $11.40. Watts, 1989. Grades 1-6. Grade 1: CG 14 and 15. Grade 2: CG 5, 6, 12, and 18-22. Grade 3: CG 12, 13, 15, and 19-22. Grade 6: CG 1-6 and 11-21
AUSTRALIA. (ISBN 0-531-10759-0)
CHINA. (ISBN 0-531-10833-3)
JAPAN. (ISBN 0-531-10760-4)
MEXICO. (ISBN 0-531-10761-2)
SOVIET UNION. (ISBN 0-531-10762-0)
SPAIN. (ISBN 0-531-10834-1)

Each volume in this fine, updated series contains short chapters on the country's land, people and history, cities, family life, food, sports and pastimes, arts, farming, industry, and outlook for the future. A map-and-data page includes a chart comparison of the country with the U.S., Britain, and one other country. The tone is both upbeat and realistic, with current political and economic problems being addressed frankly but not darkly. Items of interest to young readers receive attention, such as other nations' computer games, popular foods, and activities of schoolchildren. The many, sunny, full-color photographs are captioned, relevant, and interesting. Especially commendable is the very successful effort to bring readers and viewers into the current cultures of these diverse countries through photographs of families shopping in markets and relaxing in their homes, as

well as close-ups of typical home interiors. Of particular note for history and geography units is the variety of the world's cultures and of the planet's landforms so apparent on perusal of this series. An inviting, colorful format is further enhanced by a text printed in large, bold type on clear white paper. Written in an unpedantic style, the fact-filled text is especially useful for teaching charting, statistics, and data comparisons to early elementary children. The reading level is appropriate for primary and elementary students and made more accessible by the author's defining specialized terms as they arise in context. An index concludes each volume. These attractive titles are most suitable for reference and for browsing.

Killen, Barbara M., ed. ECONOMICS FOR TODAY. 5 titles each $14.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. Grades 5-9. Grade 5: CG 4, 12, 13, and 23. Grade 9: CG 1 and 3-9

THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. 112 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1776-0)
ECONOMICS AND THE CONSUMER. 87 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1775-2)
THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. 112 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1778-7)
THE LAW AND ECONOMICS: YOUR RIGHTS AS A CONSUMER. 88 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1779-5)
TAXES AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING. 87 p. (ISBN 0-8225-1777-9)

A good introduction to economics and consumerism, this easy-to-read series is packed with information. Killen has taken great pains to select authors who are both knowledgeable about their topics and familiar with the demands of writing for juvenile readers. The result is five books which can be used singly or together for group work or individual reporting. Terms such as "stagflation," "boycotts," "bait-and-switch," and "GNP" are defined clearly and completely. Helpful glossaries at the end of each volume contain words found in bold type throughout the text. A brief index concludes every book and supplements discussion of consumer-related topics. Men such as Adam Smith and Thorstein Veblen are profiled, but there are no bibliographies for further reading. The blend of black-and-white and color photographs illustrating the series enhances eye appeal and often features young people. While some teachers and advanced readers may prefer more in-depth discussion, the majority should find this series less intimidating and more attractive than a single textbook. A real effort to interest and inform young people about a difficult topic.

Liptak, Karen. NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN SERIES. 3 titles each 64 p. each $11.90. Watts, 1990. Grades 4-6. Grade 4: CG 17. Grade 5: CG 17

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN MEDICINE PEOPLE. (ISBN 0-531-10868-6)
NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE. (ISBN 0-531-10869-4)
NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN SURVIVAL SKILLS. (ISBN 0-531-10870-8)

Three books examine interesting practical aspects of early North American Indian culture in separate volumes on medicine people and tribal cures, elements of a universal sign language used among tribes, and survival skills gained from a life attuned to nature and the earth's resources. Counseling and healing techniques of medicine men and women are compared and contrasted among various tribes, aided by excellent full-color drawings and photographs and other graphics, all of which are well captioned. Sign Language is almost an illustrated dictionary showing students how to communicate silently and gracefully through a combination of specific hand and arm signals. Survival Skills, through text and abundant illustrations, reviews the essentials of food, clothing, shelter, and means of travel as the North American Indians attained and perfected them. Each of these books is a veritable treasure on

the subject, offering a much needed reference source for the age group. A glossary, bibliography, and an index conclude each volume. The series offers a positive, intimate picture of early American Indian civilization, shedding light on the cultural strengths and skills that unite American Indians today.

PORTRAITS OF THE NATIONS. 10 titles each $14.89. Lippincott, 1989, 1990.
Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 1-23. Grade 10: CG 1-12

Blair, David Nelson. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF BOLIVIA. 208 p. (ISBN 0-397-32383-2)

Cheney, Patricia. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE. 242 p. (ISBN 0-397-32393-X)

Fox, Geoffrey. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA. 238 p. (ISBN 0-397-32381-6)

Harris, Jonathan. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF FRANCE. 244 p. (ISBN 0-397-32321-2)

Lander, Patricia, and Claudette Charbonneau. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF FINLAND. 212 p. (ISBN 0-397-32358-1)

Major, John S. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF CHINA. 298 p. (ISBN 0-397-32336-0)

_____. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA. 200 p. (ISBN 0-397-32387-5)

Maren, Michael. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF KENYA. 191 p. (ISBN 0-397-32335-2)

Paton, Jonathan. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA. 288 p. (ISBN 0-397-32362-X)

Spencer, William. THE LAND AND PEOPLE OF TURKEY. 208 p. (ISBN 0-397-32364-6)

These well-written volumes, all authored by scholars who have lived in the countries as well as studied them, contain chapters on the nations' people, culture, arts, modern lifestyles, land and geography, economy, government, education, and history (three or four chapters). The China, Kenya, South Africa, and Turkey volumes also contain fascinating explanations of the languages. All are up-to-date and do not avoid current tensions; e.g., Arab immigration in France, elephant poaching in Kenya, student repression in China, right-wing terror in South Africa. The history sections are dramatic, thorough, and interesting (although the China volume tends to bog down in run-on detail). Less effective are sections on the arts, which read too much like encyclopedic summaries. The vocabulary level and syntax are appropriate for solidly good high school readers (the China volume is more difficult). Black-and-white photographs, poorly reproduced, are not good choices, but maps and charts provide fine resources for activities on data interpretation. A strict division by geographical area leads to unfortunate redundancy. Overall, these volumes offer relevant and interesting--even fascinating--information, although presented in a bland format. Excellent print, frequent boldface headings, and wide margins are visual pluses, however. Thorough bibliographies, indexes, and data summary pages assist research. There is no glossary (terms are defined when they occur in context). These titles are not suitable for motivational or introductory purposes but rather for research and classroom reference.

TAKING A STAND SERIES. 2 titles each $13.40. Watts, 1990. Grades 6-12.
Grade 8: CG 15. Grade 9: CG 1, 2, 5, 12, and 15. Grade 11: CG 17 and 18
Hanmer, Trudy J. TAKING A STAND AGAINST SEXISM AND SEX DISCRIMINATION. 142 p. (ISBN 0-531-10962-3)
Newton, David E. TAKING A STAND AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. 157 p. (ISBN 0-531-10923-2)

This series offers more than an overview of environmental pollution and sex discrimination. It also serves as a good primer on responsible activism. As usual in the Taking a Stand series, the message is that individuals of any age can make a difference. Written in an upbeat tone, chapters in Environmental Pollution focus on the need for public awareness, the history of environmentalism, and problems from generating power, such as acid rain and the greenhouse effect. Activists and writers from Thoreau through Rachel Carson to the present are profiled, along with five student programs and their achievements. Concluding chapters offer guidelines for becoming an effective environmental activist and for organizing a student group. More militant in tone, Sexism and Sex Discrimination also traces history, profiles the famous as well as the ordinary individual activist, and makes suggestions for student involvement. However, teachers need to be sensitive to the possible anger which might be generated by the glaring injustices described in the history section. Black-and-white photographs, lists of environmental and women's organizations and their addresses, reading lists, and good subject indexes complete each volume. Combined with an actual project for community or state, either book, as well as others in this interesting series, could be a wonderful basis for an interdisciplinary unit in language arts, science, and/or social studies at the middle and high school levels. Teachers will need to include in class discussion the flip side of activism--that it does not always succeed and that there may be unpleasant consequences for irresponsible protest.

TIMEFRAME SERIES. 9 titles each 176 p. each $19.45. Time-Life, 1987-1989. (Available from Silver Burdett Pr.) Grades 9-12
A SOARING SPIRIT: TIMEFRAME 600-400 BC. (ISBN 0-8094-6409-8)
EMPIRES ASCENDANT: TIMEFRAME 400 BC-AD 200. (ISBN 0-8094-6413-6)
EMPIRES BESIEGED: TIMEFRAME AD 200-600. (ISBN 0-8094-6417-9)
THE MARCH OF ISLAM: TIMEFRAME AD 600-800. (ISBN 0-8094-6421-7)
FURY OF THE NORTHMEN: TIMEFRAME AD 800-1000. (ISBN 0-8094-6426-8)
LIGHT IN THE EAST: TIMEFRAME AD 1000-1100. (ISBN 0-8094-6430-6)
THE DIVINE CAMPAIGNS: TIMEFRAME AD 1100-1200. (ISBN 0-8094-6434-9)
THE MONGOL CONQUESTS: TIMEFRAME AD 1200-1300. (ISBN 0-8094-6438-1)
THE AGE OF CALAMITY: TIMEFRAME AD 1300-1400. (ISBN 0-8094-6442-X)

Each book in this series examines the history of a different time period in narratives presenting the most significant events in various parts of the world during the time emcompassed. The series provides a unique cross-cultural perspective on history usually taught in a segmented fashion either by themes, such as the Muslim World or the Middle Ages, or by country--i.e., China and Japan. These volumes offer opportunities for comparison of civilizations, their institutions, inventions, and levels of development. TimeFrame AD 600-800, for instance, devotes one chapter to the rise of Islam in Arabia and another to Europe under the leadership of Constantine in Byzantium as the Roman Empire declined, and then during the rule of Charlemagne and the Franks after the Roman fall. Another chapter focuses on India, Southeast Asia, and China during the Tang Dynasty with information on the rise of Hinduism and the decline of Buddhism in India.

A final chapter looks at the emergence of Japan and the early cultural ties between China and Japan. The books are beautifully illustrated with glossy color photographs and many examples of fine arts and handicrafts. Each book contains several photographic essays on such aspects of culture as religion, education, and art. All books contain a chronology, bibliography, and index. These "coffee table" books can be used to good advantage to help students put the events of world history into chronological context and to reinforce their understanding that world history includes both Western and nonWestern cultures.

WITNESS HISTORY SERIES. 3 titles each 64 p. each $12.90. Bookwright Pr., 1990. Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 2 and 6. Grade 10: CG 9 and 10. Grade 11: CG 16

THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. (ISBN 0-531-18294-0)
THE UNITED NATIONS. (ISBN 0-531-18295-9)
THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1945. (ISBN 0-531-18297-5)

In light of events in the Middle East, these three highly topical volumes pack a great deal of background and up-to-date information into an attractive format of well-illustrated content. The vocabulary level of this series is fairly sophisticated, although its instructive visuals in the form of photographs in both black and white and color, maps, political cartoons, posters, etc., will sustain motivated students doing independent research. The issues are complex, and, although they are perforce condensed, they are not significantly oversimplified. The history of Zionism, the establishment of the State of Israel, the resultant rise of Arab nationalism, and the problems of displaced Palestinians are the focus of The Arab-Israeli Conflict. The roots of the United Nations in the failed League of Nations, the organization of the UN, and seven case histories of UN involvement are well discussed in The United Nations. American policy, foreign and domestic, under each President from Harry Truman through Ronald Reagan is the concern of The United States Since 1945. Glossaries, indexes, bibliographies, and endnotes aid reference and research.

WOMEN HISTORY MAKERS. 5 titles each 45 p. each 8.99. Hampstead Pr., 1988, 1989. (Available from Watts) Grades 7-12

A CHANCE TO LEARN. (ISBN 0-531-19512-0)
INTO THE UNKNOWN. (ISBN 0-531-19513-9)
NEW IDEAS IN INDUSTRY. (ISBN 0-531-19502-3)
SOLIDARITY. (ISBN 0-531-19503-1)
WORKING FOR EQUALITY. (ISBN 0-531-19500-7)

An excellent series of short biographies of women who have made a difference, these books are thematically arranged by such topics as the role of women in business, women who have worked for social justice, and outstanding women in education. Each book profiles three women, typically from different countries and different time periods. For example, New Ideas in Industry examines the part played by Georgia plantation owner Catharine Greene in convincing Eli Whitney to invent the cotton gin, the success of French widow Nicole-Barbe Clicquot in introducing her company's champagne to Russia, and the impact of English designer Mary Quant on the fashion industry. Sections marked "Witness" contain quotations and other primary source documents about each woman discussed. The liberal use of these features throughout the books adds to their research usefulness as in-depth looks at the women. Each book is abundantly illustrated with both black-and-white and color photographs and contains a reading list, a time line identifying achievements of women in related fields, a glossary, index, and list of places to visit or to write for more information. A superior resource.

Wright, David K. WAR IN VIETNAM. 4 titles each 144 p. $59.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-02285-7) Grades 7-12. Grade 7: CG 4-6, 9, and 23. Grade 11: CG 16.

BOOK I: EVE OF BATTLE
BOOK II: A WIDER WAR
BOOK III: VIETNAMIZATION
BOOK IV: FALL OF VIETNAM

Although the four books in this series are arranged chronologically, each can be read and studied independently as well. Wright's prose is clear, conversational, and objective, and varied opinions are presented where appropriate. The books' attractive design features two columns of text on most pages with black-and-white photographs and occasional maps for illustration. Key figures are highlighted in boxed profiles, and each volume contains a time line in its beginning pages. Book I describes the early history of Vietnam up to the critical year 1965, "when the first U.S. combat troops arrived." Book II examines the complexities of why American military forces failed to defeat the peasant Vietnamese army and focuses on the years between 1965 and 1968. Book III covers events that took place from 1968 to the early 1973 agreement between the United States and North Vietnam to end the war in South Vietnam. Book IV concludes the series by confronting the troubling consequences of the Vietnamese conflict and of America's political role in it. In keeping with the honesty and candor typical of the entire series, Wright's final chapter is a consideration of a sequence of hard questions, like "How could so much killing of innocent civilians take place?" and "Why were U.S. soldiers unable to beat the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong?" A final time line traces Vietnamese history from 3000 B.C. to 1988. Glossaries and indexes are included in all four books. Aimed at teenaged readers, this comprehensive analysis is a definite asset to classroom discussion and student reporting.

## BOOKS (REFERENCE)

THE DOUBLEDAY CHILDREN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA. 4 v. 796 p. $69.95. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-41210-X) Grades 2-5

A colorful, four-volume reference, The Doubleday Children's Encyclopedia contains over 1,300 entries and 2,000 illustrations in a format carefully designed to attract and inform children. Entries are brief and clearly written. Subject headings include expected items, such as United States Presidents and countries of the world, and some unexpected topics, such as birth control and the Underground Railroad. Twenty-four "Special Features" present introductory material on selected areas, including "Battles," "Plants," and "The Middle Ages." Pages display information in an exciting array of text, captioned illustration, and highlighted and boxed material. Instruction on how to use the volumes is clear and introduces Volume One. Of special interest are marginal panels containing amusing facts and practical ideas for projects and experiments. A general index of text and illustration appears in Volume Four, and a subject index divides entries into sixteen categories, which coincide with sixteen symbols accompanying each heading. For example, the entry for "Aardvark" has the outline of a dog beside its heading, denoting "Animals." Cross-referencing is another aid in this very readable set, which is suitable for browsing, quick reference, and general introduction.

Dunkling, Leslie, and Adrian Room. THE GUINNESS BOOK OF MONEY. 191 p. $19.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2520-7) Grades 6-12. Grade 9: CG 5 and 9

An addition to the series begun by The Guinness Book of Names and The Guinness Book of Numbers, this latest book both informs and entertains. Because the subject of money has inspired so much comment, these pages are full of passages from novels, poems, anecdotes, songs, jokes, essays, and remarks about money. Writers from Shakespeare and Dickens to Thomas Wolfe and Joseph Heller are represented, with an emphasis on British authors. Readers are treated to lighthearted, black-and-white cartoons which preface each chapter. Content covers the meaning of the word, the evolution of money and how worth was determined, the history of coins and currency, the origin of the pound and other monies of the world, banks and mints, financial markets, profiles of millionaires and con men, credit, and the cashless society. Features include tables, occasional glossaries, a bibliography, and an index. This title would be useful for an interesting interdisciplinary unit on money in language arts and social studies.

Elwood, Ann, and Carol Orsag Madigan. THE MACMILLAN BOOK OF FASCINATING FACTS: AN ALMANAC FOR KIDS. 436 p. $16.95. Macmillan, 1989. (ISBN 0-02-733461-9) Grades 3-8. Grade 3: CG 4, 12, and 16. Grade 4: CG 17. Grade 5: CG 3, 17, 18, and 23. Grade 8: CG 15

Relevant, informative, and just plain fun, this compendium of interesting "stuff" is a wonderful resource for teachers as well as students in the upper elementary and middle grades. Most useful are the initial and concluding chapters. Chapter 1, entitled "Kids Speak Out," is a collection of student writing on a variety of topics in both creative and expository form. Chapter 11 tackles "Problems" ranging from drug, alcohol, and diet abuses to kids' basic legal rights, offering a list of 1-800 help lines as well as many examples of how to reach out to others in distress. Intervening chapters include addresses for students to write for more information about topics of special interest, to join national groups, or to get involved in political action. A wealth of informative content here will engage young minds in stimulating thought and enliven class discussion. Although the black-and-white photographs and illustrations are sometimes fuzzy, the large type and two-column format are appealing. A thorough index completes this reference. Recommended for a study of almanacs or as a model for students creating their own.

Faragher, John Mack. THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COLONIAL AND REVOLUTIONARY AMERICA. 484 p. $50. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-1744-1) Grades 8-12. Grade 8: CG 5 and 6. Grade 11: CG 1, 3, and 4

From the plains of Abraham to the town squares of Savannah to the surrender of Yorktown, readers journey across Colonial and Revolutionary America with this encyclopedia as an able and enthusiastic guide. Vivid detail, varied sentence structure, and succinct phrasing characterize a writing style that conveys interesting and helpful information. Some of the alphabetically listed entries are brief; others are extensive. Most end with See Also cross references and bibliographies, encouraging and enabling users to do additional reading. The main essays, indicated conveniently by boldface numbers in the index, have topic guides that suggest extensive references to related subjects. Many fully captioned photographs--most reproductions of lovely

woodcuts--along with numerous maps clearly labeled and a lengthy index add to the value of this comprehensive resource. Although this volume may be used by all students, there is more breadth here than depth. As a reference, it is most appropriate for average and below-average students.

Frei, Beatrice, and Honor Head. THE GUINNESS BOOK OF ANSWERS: THE COMPLETE REFERENCE HANDBOOK. 596 p. $17.95. Guinness Bks., 1989. (ISBN 0-85112-334-1) (Available from Sterling) Grades 6-12

This new, updated, and British-oriented edition has been redesigned for easy reference. Thirty-one areas of knowledge, from "The Earth" and "Literature" to "Sports" and "Computers," are presented in an almanac format with two-column pages and bold headings. For example, several sections, such as those on astronomy and philosophy, have an introduction and/or a glossary. Others, like "The Earth," display data on clearly labeled charts rather than risk oversight by being perhaps obscured in prose. As usual, significant and useful information is accompanied by unique and curious facts. Readers are treated to lists of animal collective nouns (a parliament of owls), phobias (pantophobia is a fear of everything!), and inventions (an Italian, Pellegrine Tari, invented the typewriter in 1808) as well as hundreds of firsts. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams add variety to the text, which concludes with a thorough index. Compiled in England, the text exhibits a decided preference for British literature, politics, and history. Depending on collection needs, this persuasion is either too extensive when compared to the limited sections on other countries (only nine pages on the USA), or it fills a gap.

THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 1991. 320 p. $21.95. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2439-1) Grades 6-12

"To settle arguments, inspire research, intrigue, and entertain" is the stated purpose of this very attractive volume. For the first time, U. S. records can be found side by side with updated world records in this new American edition. Eleven sections contain entries for subjects which range from "The Human Being" and "The Living World" to "Sports and Games." Every turn of the page reveals superb photographs or drawings, mostly color, blended into a three-column format. A special feature is the use of boxed lists and captions printed on a colored background to add further eye appeal. A thorough index is a valuable concluding aid to finding all those "-est" things, like the largest butterfly and the fastest bricklayer. This book's presentation makes it superior to other Guinness books containing the same or similar information but in a less exciting format.

Hagerman, Paul Stirling. IT'S A WEIRD WORLD. 128 p. $5.95 paper. Sterling, 1990. (ISBN 0-8069-7412-5) Grades 6-12

This humorous, high-interest collection of interesting facts and anecdotes ranges from the informative to the bizarre. For example, "Spanish moss is neither moss nor Spanish," and "the 11th-century religious leader St. Bernard once excommunicated a swarm of flies for buzzing too loudly while he preached." Chapter titles identify nineteen categories for the historical and scientific trivia about the world, including "How It Started" and "Why It's Better To Be an Animal Than a Person." Black-and-white cartoons provide lighthearted illustration, and items are separated on the page by a row of diamonds to facilitate reading. A thorough index enables locating material of special interest. Avid and reluctant readers alike will enjoy and learn from this lively reference.

Jurmain, Suzanne. ONCE UPON A HORSE: A HISTORY OF HORSES--AND HOW THEY SHAPED OUR HISTORY. 176 p. $17.95. Lothrop, 1989. (ISBN 0-688-05550-8) Grades 5-8. Grade 5: CG 20 and 23. Grade 6: CG 18, 19, and 20

Extensive research went into this documentation of the origin and evolution of the horse and its changing role in history. From servant to friend, the noble creature has been a vital element in commerce, war, transportation, exploration, agriculture, and recreation. This book's value as a reference is enhanced by explanatory notes for each chapter, a list of principal sources, illustration credits, and an index. However, the use of black-and-white illustration for photographs, etchings, and watercolors throughout discourages pleasure reading by more than the most avid horseman or horsewoman. It is possible, though, for a student to combine a love of horses with study by using information in the book for oral or written reports.

Kirchberger, Joe H. THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON: AN EYEWITNESS HISTORY. 376 p. $35. Facts on File, 1989. (ISBN 0-8160-2090-6) Grades 10-12. Grade 10: CG 2, 7, and 8

This beautifully designed and written text goes beyond reporting the history of the French Revolution to reveal that event, using eyewitness testimony. Direct quotations from contemporaries of the period suggest an authenticity and clarity that make the reading almost like a time-travel experience. Quoted selections from diaries, newspapers, memoirs, political speeches, and personal letters give the historical moments life. Chapter introductions, chronicles of events, and ample black-and-white photographs of paintings and period artwork with informative captions add another dimension. Still more information fills the three concluding appendices. Appendix A lists important documents numerically and chronologically and contains decrees, formal letters to courts, declarations, excerpts from the constitution, laws, treaties, and proclamations. Appendix B is an alphabetical presentation of biographies of major personalities, and Appendix C displays a series of maps. A bibliography and comprehensive index complete this invaluable resource. A wonderful reference!

Makower, Joel, et al., eds. THE MAP CATALOG: EVERY KIND OF MAP AND CHART ON EARTH AND EVEN SOME ABOVE IT. 2nd ed. 364 p. $16.95 paper. Vintage Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-679-72767-1) (Available from Random) Teacher use

In this updated, expanded second edition, The Map Catalog provides a wealth of information on the many types of maps, addresses for government and commercial sources, and related products, such as educational games and software. An introductory chapter presents a brief overview of the history of mapmaking, instructions on how to choose a map, and a lesson in map skills. Section headings organize maps according to type. For example, "Sky Maps" contains the following subsections: "Aeronautical Charts," "Astronomical Charts and Maps," and "Weather Maps." Cross references between each subsection are a necessary aid for locating specific material. Of special interest are concluding chapters on "Atlases and Globes" and "Et Cetera" (miscellaneous material about the latest geography materials, products, and software). Illustrations include black-and-white and color photographs and diagrams. Final appendixes list state and federal government resources, preventing constant repetition throughout the text, and a glossary explains selected map terms. A thorough index concludes this invaluable teacher reference.

Morrison, Reg. AUSTRALIA: THE FOUR BILLION YEAR JOURNEY OF A CONTINENT. 334 p. $45. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2409-X) Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 1

This beautiful volume traces the evolution and drift of the Australian land mass by processes begun over four billion years ago. Geological and fossil records linking Australia to the mammoth land mass Pangaea make for fascinating reading and viewing. More than a book about Australia per se, this volume vividly describes the birth of the solar system and the evolution of the earth itself, as well as the evolution of plants and animals from remnants of primordial matter. Ice ages and collisions with other land masses are studied for their contribution to periodic extinctions of plant and animal life and the transformation of lush rain forest to arid wasteland. Time charts and black-and-white location maps at the beginning of each chapter allow readers to follow Australia's separation and migration away from its original base. An annotated table of contents is a fine guide to contents and a quick reference aid, as are a bibliography and index. Extraordinary full-color photographs in profusion afford the reader an armchair journey throughout the spectacular continent as it looks today. This one is a first-purchase consideration for school libraries.

Reader's Digest Editors. AMERICA'S FASCINATING INDIAN HERITAGE. 416 p. $27.95. Reader's Digest, 1990. (ISBN 0-89577-372-4) (Available from Random) Grades 9-12. Grade 11: CG 1 and 11

Impressive from cover to cover, this attractive, encyclopedic volume contains the histories of every major tribe in North America and a monumental collection of art and artifacts. Drawings and paintings by period artists, such as John White and George Catlin; quotations and excerpts from primary sources; and carefully chosen photographs and illustrations augment the clear, comprehensive text. Its contents include reconstructed village life; tribal rituals and crafts; portraits of historical figures, like Sacajawea and Chief Joseph; maps of tribal boundaries and migration routes; and documentation of struggles with foes from Coronado and Custer to contemporary problems, such as school dropouts, unemployment, poor health, and acculturation. Supplementing the material are a very informative introduction, an up-to-date section on the contemporary cultural renaissance, a list of U. S. and Canadian museums and sites, and a thorough index. A comprehensive, intelligent resource for reference, reporting, and browsing, this title is both authentic and informative.

Roaf, Michael. CULTURAL ATLAS OF MESOPOTAMIA AND THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST. 238 p. $45. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-2218-6) Grades 9-12. Grade 10: CG 2-7 and 9

Colorful and comprehensive, this important reference is a compendium of facts known about "the cradle of civilization," tracing 12,000 years of historical and cultural development from the end of the Ice Age to the destruction of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great in 330 B. C. Since most information has come from archeological digs, these sites are presented in some detail, including site plans, artifacts, diagrams, and photographs. A variety of specialized topics are woven into the text, such as the origins of writing and the function of religion and ritual in daily life. Information is organized in three parts--"Villages," "Cities," and "Empires." Valuable study aids include an introductory chronological table; lists and page numbers for the special features, sites, kings, and maps (in the table of contents); and a

concluding glossary of technical terms, bibliography, gazetteer, and thorough index. In light of current events in the Persian Gulf, teachers and students will find much material for discussion and reports. However, although the book jacket claims this volume is aimed at "the nonspecialist," advanced students are likely to use it most.

Ward, Geoffrey C., et al. THE CIVIL WAR: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY. 426 p. $50. Knopf, 1990. (ISBN 0-394-56285-2) Grades 7-12. Grade 8: CG 8, 9, and 10. Grade 11: CG 7, 8, and 9

Developed as a companion volume to the popular PBS television series, The Civil War is a superb photo-essay text presenting for the first time an inclusive portrait of the average American soldier and citizen against a backdrop of the nation in bloody conflict. It examines conditions and events of the war years in authentic photography from the era and a text drawn heavily from letters, diaries, newspapers, and other extant records. The book's irresistible appeal is its abundant photographs of individual Union and Confederate soldiers, of families, homes, campsites, battlefields, war dead, prisoners, and the seemingly endless lines of marching men on both sides of the conflict. Their somber, poignant pictorial history is made all the more eloquent by the rudimentary simplicity of the cameras recording it. Notable Civil War historians--Shelby Foote, C. Vann Woodward, Barbara Fields, and others--as well as keen observers of the scene, such as Walt Whitman and Mary Chesnut, enrich the text. This book graphically brings to life the ordinary private's war, supplementing the often told generals' war. Maps, an index, bibliography, and other reference aids expand research usefulness. Readers and viewers will be gripped by this splendid and comprehensive recognition of Johnny Reb and Johnny Blue as well as of Lincoln, Lee, Grant, and their officers.

## BOOKS REVIEWED IN OTHER SOURCES

The books listed below have received favorable reviews in one or more of the following reviewing sources. Code letters for the reviewing sources are cited after the bibliographic entry for each title. The reviewing sources and their code letters are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| BOOK REPORT | B Rpt |
| BOOK WORLD | BW |
| BOOKLIST | BKL |
| BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS | BCCB |
| HORN BOOK | HB |
| HORN BOOK GUIDE | HBG |
| KIRKUS REVIEWS | KR |
| NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW | NYTBR |
| PUBLISHERS WEEKLY | PW |
| SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL | SLJ |
| VOICE OF YOUTH ADVOCATES | VOYA |

An asterisk after the code letters for the reviewing source indicates that the title was highly recommended in that particular reviewing source.

Blumberg, Rhoda. THE GREAT AMERICAN GOLD RUSH. 135 p. $16.95. Bradbury Pr., 1989. Grades 5-10. BCCB BKL* BW HB KR* NYTBR PW SLJ* VOYA

Jenkins, Tony. NICARAGUA AND THE UNITED STATES: YEARS OF CONFLICT. 190 p. $14.90. Watts, 1989. (ISBN 0-531-10795-7) Grades 9-12. B Rpt BKL HBG SLJ

Lepthien, Emilie U. THE MANDANS. (New True Books) 48 p. $9.95. Childrens, 1989. (ISBN 0-516-01180-4) Grades 2-4. BKL SLJ

Books in a Series

CORNERSTONES OF FREEDOM SERIES. 7 titles each 32 p. each $9.45. Childrens, 1989, 1990. Grades 3-6. BKL SLJ
- THE STORY OF HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. (ISBN 0-516-04746-9)
- THE STORY OF JONAS SALK AND THE DISCOVERY OF THE POLIO VACCINE. (ISBN 0-516-04747-7)
- THE STORY OF THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE. (ISBN 0-516-04748-5)
- THE STORY OF THE POWERS OF THE SUPREME COURT. (ISBN 0-516-04721-3)
- THE STORY OF THE SURRENDER AT YORKTOWN. (ISBN 0-516-04723-X)
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## VIDEOCASSETTES

AWAY WE GO: ALL ABOUT TRANSPORTATION. 1 videocassette 22 min. catalog cards guide VHS $89. Rainbow Ed. Video, 1990. Grades K-3

This videocassette defines transportation, explains the importance of the wheel and several other inventions, and briefly traces the history of specific modes, including cars, trains, ships, and planes. To involve young viewers, children (minorities included) are pictured in various activities throughout the video, and children's voices add occasional life to the narration. However, the soothing voice of the adult narrator may lull some students to sleep. A useful guide contains a summary, learning objectives, questions and answers for review, suggestions for activities and discussion, a bibliography, and the script. A separate sheet provides a multiple-choice quiz in cloze format. The video and its good ancillary material could supplement an introductory unit on transportation.

IN SEARCH OF THE FIRST AMERICANS. 1 videocassette 28 min. VHS $69.95. Carolina Biol., 1988. Grades 7-12. Grade 11: CG 1

As its title suggests, this videocassette is an overview of archaeological and anthropological efforts to locate sites and artifacts of the earliest inhabitants of North America. In on-site footage aided by interviews with principals involved in the digs and research, the presentation shows how scientists in northern Maine and at Great Salt Lake sift through soil deposits recovered from lake bottoms and ancient caves in quest of prehistoric artifacts. Particularly interesting are the comments of anthropologists and archaeologists, often as they are actually digging, sifting, reconstructing recovered tools, or studying ancient pollen for clues. An unusual feature is slow-motion footage of craftsmen creating tools out of raw materials (e.g., obsidian) in the manner of people 11,000 years ago on the North American continent as fascinated Montana ranchers and their families look on.

(A subtext is contained in the enthusiastic comments of an anthropologist who retired after twenty-eight years as a business executive to go back to college and pursue his real love.) Besides offering insight into buried civilizations all about us, this presentation is a fine introduction to the men and women whose devoted, patient, close analysis of unimpressive dirt will open the eyes of students to the rewards of vital if un-flashy occupations.

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